

ORGANISATION IN AGRICULTURE.  
THE ELECTRIFICATION OF SEEDS (illus.).

By Charles A. Mercier, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

JAN 3 - 1918

# COUNTRY LIFE

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## TOWARDS A HOUSING POLICY

FINANCE, materials and labour are the three main factors in the housing problem. Of these, labour will present the least difficulties, because if the new Demobilisation Department of the Ministry of Labour does its work quickly and efficiently it should be possible to withdraw rapidly from the Army those pivotal men who are needed in order that the normal building machinery of the country may be set going for its great task of housing.

Finance must be a grave problem, because in the first place no one in his senses wants to add more indebtedness to the country than is absolutely necessary, and, secondly, because we have to face a serious loss due to building being carried on in a set of conditions wholly uneconomic.

In other words, the houses to be built during the next two years will not ultimately be worth the money that is spent on them. When a new normal level of values is reached, and houses can once more be built as an economic proposition, the owners of the houses now built, whether by

the State, Municipalities, Public Utility Societies or private owners, will not be able to secure an economic rent which will give a return on the money invested. Nevertheless, so overwhelming is the need that the working classes in this country shall be housed decently, and so certain is it that social order will be endangered if the need is not met in a large spirit, that the nation must make up its mind to cutting the loss. As far as local authorities are concerned, it is already conceded that the State shall pay 75 per cent. of the inevitable loss, leaving 25 per cent. to be charged to the rates, and it is likely that most of the urban building will be done by local authorities or by Public Utility Societies working in conjunction with them. But that will not solve the rural problem with which we are most concerned. The landowner must be brought into the scheme if he is willing to do his share, and this must be made financially possible for him. It is easy to imagine the outcry in the new House of Commons, which we hope and believe will be very progressive, against any proposal to put State money into private pockets, but if the case is placed squarely before the House it ought to be possible to carry a just scheme which will work somewhat thus. A landowner who paid before the war £350 for a pair of cottages is faced by a cost of, say, £550, if built in 1919, which might drop to £450 if he delayed building until 1925. There is thus a dead loss to him of £100 which would arise simply because he patriotically built at the time when the need was greatest. Probably he will not build at all unless he gets the money on loan from some State source. It might well, therefore, be a part of the loan bargain that if he borrowed, say, 90 per cent. of the £550 needed to build the cottages, he should be required to pay back only 90 per cent. of the £450, which would be the eventual real value of the property. Many landowners desire to build a better type of cottage in order to maintain or to improve the amenities of their estate. In such a case they would, of course, receive the amount of loan granted for ordinary cottages such as local authorities were building, and would have to pay out of their own pockets whatever extra was involved by their desire for a more attractive type of cottage.

For the next year, however, materials are a more potent factor in the situation than either finance or labour. In our Notes we refer to the situation in the brick-making industry, and it is obvious that unless immediate steps are taken to prepare the earth from which the bricks are made, the manufacture in 1919 will be far below pre-war production, whatever energy may be brought to bear on output six months hence. Last week the Ministry of Reconstruction published a Report on the post-war position of the building industry. The recommendations are shortly these. A committee of forty-six members, representing various building interests, is suggested for immediate appointment with the duty of determining, under direction from the Standing Council on Priority, all matters connected with the reorganisation of the building trade. It is proposed that Regional Committees shall be set up all over the country to stimulate the production of materials.

One protest must be made, and that is against the omission of a representative of the Board of Agriculture from the Committee which has just reported, and on the Central Building Industry Committee which is to administer this immense scheme of control. On the latter it is proposed to put four representatives of local authorities. It is surely ridiculous that the Rural District Councils Association should have a voice in the administration of this vast and complicated scheme of priority, while the Board of Agriculture, which ought to be—and, we are persuaded, will be—the chief guardian of all rural interests, will have no voice at the Council table. However, the constitution of this great Executive Committee has not yet been determined. We deal only with the recommendations which have not yet been adopted. It is hardly credible that in so vital a matter as the rebuilding of rural England the Government will ignore the Ministry which must be the chief instrument in the re-peopling and regeneration of the countryside.

## Our Frontispiece

WE print as our frontispiece to this week's issue a portrait of Major-General Sir Charles Townshend, K.C.B., whose name will ever be imperishably connected with that of Kut-el-Amara. Miss Audrey Townshend is his only child.

\* \* It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.



# COUNTRY



## NOTES

EVERY subject of King George will heartily endorse the noble tribute paid to him in both Houses of Parliament. His public life and that of Queen Mary also have been ideal during the war. He has cheered and sustained the country with unalterable faith in the end, sympathy for those who have fallen, and recognition for the brave. The Queen has been unwearied in well doing, inspiring women everywhere to give of their best and emulate, where they did not surpass, the patriotic devotion of the men. Withal, this has been done without the arrogance of the German autocrat, who spoke and acted as though the lives and fortunes of his people belonged only to him and were consecrated to his glory. Again, the King has on every meet occasion shown a simple, unaffected piety that is in marked contrast with William's impious association of himself with the Deity, and his assumption that those whom he adjured to show their frightfulness in the peaceful towns of Belgium and to murder women, children and peaceable citizens in the *Lusitania* were the chosen people. We in this country have little sympathy with a religion that takes such a form. The King's position, clearly stated at the beginning and consistently held during the progress of the war, was that we, a people engaged in the arts of peace and anxious to avoid quarrels with our neighbours, were rightfully withstanding an attempt to dominate Europe, and that, in the righteousness of God, right was sure to triumph in the end. But King George and Queen Mary are not, let us be thankful, addicted to rhetoric. They have gone about doing good, and their names have been more associated with the relief of suffering, the healing of the wounded, plans for ameliorating distress, than with any glorification of Royalty and its demands upon those who are subject to it. And they have their reward. Never in the history of our kings and queens has a people been more united and loyal. War, which has discovered and laid bare the weakness of absolute government, has confirmed and strengthened our constitutional monarch and his people.

HOW often, when confusion has to be made straight, he who is responsible for it exclaims: "Where shall I begin?" So many things appear to claim his complete attention at the same moment. The country is very much in that position just now. Dislocation is general after four and a half years of war, and it will require the whole of the national energy to get things straight again. There can, however, be little difference of opinion as to what is the most pressing work to be taken in hand. "Food comes first" should be the motto for immediate action. The situation is serious and much future privation can be avoided by prompt and energetic action. No other belligerent country has suffered less than this, and if the problems confronting us are difficult, they must be trebly so in the rest of Europe, where desolation has followed the track of battle. Even where armies have not fought men have been abstracted from field work to an extent that has brought about an invasion of weeds which has practically turned fruitful land into waste. Years must elapse before the production of food again becomes normal.

WHAT we have to do is plain enough. First, as the President of the Board of Agriculture has proclaimed, every land-worker must be set free from the Army with all possible speed. There is no lack of employment on the farm, and it is most essential that the business of getting in the autumn crops should be completed with all possible dispatch. But in order to restore fertility another serious obstacle must be surmounted. This is created by the dearth of manure. The more pasture that is turned into arable land the greater the demand for it. Despite the increasing use of artificials, the stand-by of the English farmer is the farmyard heap. There is plenty of straw in the country, the raw material out of which farmyard manure is made. What we really want is a supply of feeding stuffs for fattening the stall-fed ox. This should be obtainable. It is an open secret that if the Germans had not surrendered, every ton of shipping would have been used to bring over American soldiers and their equipment to put on pressure before April. Untold benefit would result if part of the shipping not used for the transport of soldiers could be devoted to bringing feeding stuffs to this country. At all costs the farmer must be provided with manual labour and manure if he is to succeed in adding to his output of human food.

NOTHING could assist agricultural development more effectively than an increased use of transport; and in thinking of that one cannot help recollecting that there is any amount of it in France. The Army made use of an immense number of petrol-driven wagons, trolleys and other vehicles that, if not immediately, at least, very shortly, could be brought back to this country. Transport is needed to do more than relieve congestion on the railways; many districts are not served by train at all. The idea entertained in many quarters of running light railways or little tramlines would be rendered unnecessary if a prodigious supply of petrol machines were placed at the disposal of the districts. They could be employed to handle all the stuff needed on the farm: manure from the city, as well as artificials, seed, grain, potatoes and other roots—the whole produce of the land. They could collect for the markets as well and, in short, perform a hundred offices, many of which are impossible for the railways at this moment, and some, at any time. To have a vehicle that could run up by-lanes and call at every farm house and small-holder's homestead would indeed be an inestimable boon to agriculture.

### AN OCTOBER SUNSET.

Glorious is the forest robe  
Now, when like a molten globe  
Hangs the red sun o'er the range,  
And the cloudy curtains change  
Purple gloom for glowing gold  
Round celestial halls that hold  
The departing god of day  
Girded for his westward way.  
For the glory of the earth  
Shines no less for death than birth,  
Shines in Autumn as in Spring,  
In falling as in quickening,  
Shines for sunset as sunrise.  
Death is naught but change of skies,  
Why should brightness be forgot  
Just because we see it not?  
Why should Love with sullen black  
Speed the spirit on its track?  
As if the setting sun afar  
Rolled in gloom, a darkened star.

F. W. BOURDILLON

A MEMORY of the surrender of the German Fleet will go down through the ages. Historians will tell of the long years during which the Emperor of Germany and his satellites worked on the assumption that, in his own words, "our future is on the water." They constructed a menace to the supremacy of Great Britain equal to what the Spanish Armada was in its own time. Germany was as proud of her ships as of her disciplined and, as was believed, invincible army. Nothing has impressed the masses of our own countrymen more than the surrender of the flower of these vessels. The deed is accepted as an indubitable sign that the power of the Great Empire has passed away. It is a token, too, that the cloud which its menace has cast over Europe for a quarter of a century is dissipated. At the first news of an armistice being signed people were joyful, but in a dazed kind of manner.

It was impossible for them to realise in a second what had happened, but the *sequelæ* to that event, particularly the surrender of Germany's choicest men-of-war, have given an assurance that, after the long days' fighting, peace has arrived at last—peace that gives every promise of enduring far beyond the lifetime of any who have witnessed these wonderful events.

FEW things in history are more instructive than the collapse of that fleet. In spite of all endeavours to conceal the facts they keep leaking out, and they supply the moral that the German Command tried the courage of their sailors too high. When defeat appeared to be inevitable they calmly decided, as it had been expected they would, to make a holocaust of their ships and men. In other words, they ordered them to make a hopeless sortie; Admiral Beatty drew a conclusion that would have been absolutely correct, save for the defection of the men, that war would end with a big naval battle. The German seamen are not cowards, they have on more than one occasion shown themselves plucky and worthy opponents of our own unparalleled sailors, but the monstrous idea did not appeal to them that the vessels should sail out of their hiding place, fire their last charge and go down gloriously with the flag flying. Thus was it schemed that the fleet would make a spectacular end and save what the militarists called "their honour." But it cannot be wondered that the seamen whose sacrifice was thus coldly planned could not acquiesce in a scheme which meant a huge and mighty slaughter without a chance of victory. The German Emperor and his advisers were responsible for this insurgence. The time has gone past when human beings of ordinary intelligence can be expected to submit to a decree that assumes them to be only, in the brutal Teutonic phrase, "cannon fodder."

THE Cornwall County Council has, through its Small Holdings Committee, prepared a scheme for the settlement of ex-Service men on the land. This is the first of its kind, and the Board of Agriculture are giving it every encouragement and propose to adopt it as a model. The scheme is embodied in the following recommendations: "That the Board of Agriculture be applied to for power to lease a farm of 300 acres for the purpose of a training centre for small holders, and 700 acres for the purpose of establishing a colony, provided suitable land can be procured near the training centre; that a sum of £8,000 be applied for, for the purpose of stocking and equipping the training centre, and that a Treasury grant of £1,000 per annum be applied for to assist in maintaining the permanent staff and meeting the working expenses of the training centre." Already three hundred ex-Service men have applied for small holdings in Cornwall, eighty-nine of whom are inexperienced and ask for training. The latter would undergo training at the Centre, and a suggestion has been made that they should be able to capitalise their pension for the purpose of stocking a small holding after they had demonstrated that they were capable of managing one. Holdings would vary in size from 15 to 40 acres, and provide openings for men of varying means. A limited number of Land Army women would be admitted to the advantages offered the men under this scheme. By carrying this admirable scheme into early effect the Cornwall County Council will be solving one of the greatest problems to be faced when the tide of demobilisation is on the flood.

WHATEVER machinery of Government control may be required in connection with housing, it will be very desirable to avoid a scheme of ownership by the State, and to keep within as narrow limits as possible ownership by local authorities. The Government has already promised to help Public Utility Societies, but the extent to which private enterprise can be assisted by the State is full of difficulties. Obviously there must be no risk that the private individual shall benefit from the application of public funds. The suggestion is abroad that it should be made obligatory for every rural landowner to provide a sufficiency of cottages for the acreage he owns could not in justice be carried out without extending the same help to the individual as to the local authority or Public Utility Society. He would probably build better than either, and good building should always be encouraged. If his cottages were so ambitious as to cost a great deal more than those put up by public bodies it could not be expected that the State would pay him more than would be paid to the builder of a cottage who did what was necessary and no more. But the owner who is compelled to put up a certain number of cottages per 100 acres is certainly deserving of help. If this number is reasonable he

need not fear that the cottages will ever be empty owing to changes in cultivation.

MATERIALS are the key of the housing situation, regarded as an emergency problem. The Committee appointed by the Ministry of Reconstruction to consider the post-war position of building have published their report very opportunely. They emphasise the insufficiency of materials as certain to limit building activity for some time to come. We note with interest the stress they lay on the need to use local materials wherever possible in order to secure economy of transport. That is the basis of the enquiry on which COUNTRY LIFE has embarked. The figures quoted by the Committee are rather staggering. If all the available brickworks were to produce at their highest limit of output and with all the labour they wanted at their disposal, they could only turn out four thousand millions of bricks in a year as against a pre-war average of twelve hundred millions less. But the first year's programme of working-class housing calls for six thousand million bricks. That is only to say that if we do not use concrete and wall materials other than bricks on a very large scale, we shall fall lamentably short of what the population needs in bare accommodation, and all building and engineering activities other than housing will have to be suspended indefinitely. Neither alternative is pleasant to face, and we return to the plain fact that the Government must see the building problem large and see it whole if endless dissatisfaction—and worse—is not to overtake them.

#### THE PRIZE.

We have been cast into God's melting-pot  
Where principalities and powers toss,  
We, tiny atoms of mingled gold and dross,  
Among the myriads by the world forgot;  
And we have learned the fires of hell are hot,  
And we have known the agony of the Cross,  
Now what is left to us of all our loss?  
What have we won from the welter and the rot?  
We drag our bodies about with us in pain—  
Our bodies of the erstwhile delicate poise—  
We cannot use at will the weary brain,  
Worn by sad thoughts and all bemused with noise,  
But we have found our souls and there regain  
Inviolable, all our youthful fire and joys.

DOROTHY FRANCES GURNEY.

WHEN we turn to urban housing, the shortage is so great that it cannot be met by building a few houses here and there. Before an adequate number of new dwellings can be built town planning schemes must be prepared. In this connection the annual report of the Local Government Board just issued makes most melancholy reading. Much was hoped from the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, but the results have been miserable beyond belief. In the nine years which have elapsed no more than ninety schemes have been even talked of. In only ten cases have schemes been submitted to the Board by local authorities, and only six schemes have been finally approved. Of these six, two relate to Birmingham. In other words, five local authorities out of eighteen hundred and six have made final and effective use of the Act. One of the first duties of the Government will be to amend the Act so that its lumbering and circumlocutory methods may be abolished. The plain fact is that urban housing must depend upon town planning and that town planning has been for all practical purposes a sheer impossibility. The more the emergency problem of housing is considered the more is it seen that the Prime Minister will need to cut a good many Gordian knots.

VERY great sympathy will be felt with the President of the Board of Agriculture, whose son, Lieutenant Rowland John Prothero, 7th Hussars, died from wounds in Mesopotamia while the armistice was being considered. The President of the Board of Agriculture used to say the battle would be won on the potato fields. Little did he dream that victory would be saddened by so tragic a family bereavement. Lieutenant Prothero was only twenty-four; and the agony of parents must be all the more bitter when they find their hope lasting close to the end of hostilities and yet dashed to pieces amid the closing scenes. Nothing can soothe the anguish of the moment, but later Mr. Prothero will feel a sad pride that his son died of wounds received in battle for his country, working, in fact, for the same patriotic end which his father has kept steadily in view during the long years of strife.



## THE EX-KAISER IN HOLLAND



AMERONGEN: PART OF THE ENTRANCE GATE.

LAST week, writing immediately after the flight of the Kaiser from Berlin, we were informed that he was being sent to Middachten Castle, the seat of Count William Bentinck. That seems to have been the intention in the first place, but for reasons not fully stated he was ultimately sent to Amerongen, the seat of Count Godard Bentinck. The illustrations shown last week were mainly of Middachten. Through the courtesy of Colonel Mulliner we are now able to show the accompanying photographs of Amerongen. Whether the Kaiser is interned remains doubtful. It appears that he was received at the request of the Dutch Government, and Count Godard Bentinck, the son of an Englishman, is placed in an awkward position. So is the Dutch Government, for the matter of that.

Mutterings of revolution have long rumbled from Holland, and though care is evidently taken not to let any more news through than can be avoided, it is clear that rebellion is smouldering. Before these words are read it may either have smouldered out or burst into flame, although one is rather inclined to reject the latter alternative because the Dutch are a slow, careful and law-abiding people who are not likely to rush into extremes. If a revolution occurred in Holland it would probably be unmarked by the bloodshed that has occurred in the rest of Europe. The Dutch Government must by this time have begun to question their wisdom in accepting the dethroned Kaiser as a guest. William himself is probably on tenterhooks, although the more responsible correspondents deny the first account which described him



AMERONGEN: THE ENTRANCE FRONT.



THE PICTURE GALLERY.



as worn out with anxiety and greatly depressed. If William Hohenzollern were downhearted, it would be exclusively on account of his own misfortune. Had he the heart to feel for others, he would have shrunk from leading Europe into the carnage which preceded his departure from Berlin. He has been joined in Holland by the Crown Prince, whom the Dutch authorities have promptly interned. We can scarcely imagine them allowing William to return to Germany even if he wished. Strictly speaking, he was a military fugitive, and by the law of nations should be interned until the war is over. If not, then M. Clemenceau's demand should be conceded and the great culprit made to stand his trial before a European tribunal. It is not at all to the liking of those who have lost so many of their dear ones that the only punishment accorded him should be that he is placed in a very beautiful old house with full liberty, as it appears, to take his pleasure in the grounds.

Of Amerongen we said something last week, and a few words may now be added. The house was built in 1678 by the architect Cornelius van Rietvelt, who assisted Van Kampen the builder of the famous palace, then town hall, of Amsterdam. As a matter of fact, Amerongen bears in some details a resemblance to the more widely known building, the upper hall being a replica in miniature of the Great Hall of the Palace. In appearance it is not unlike many of the English country houses illustrated from time to time in our pages. Its moat with a double bridge forms the means of entrance from the forecourt—a very fine one—to the house. Again resembling many English manor houses, it has a church close to it where are to be seen the tombs of the old owners, the van Reedes. It differs essentially from the



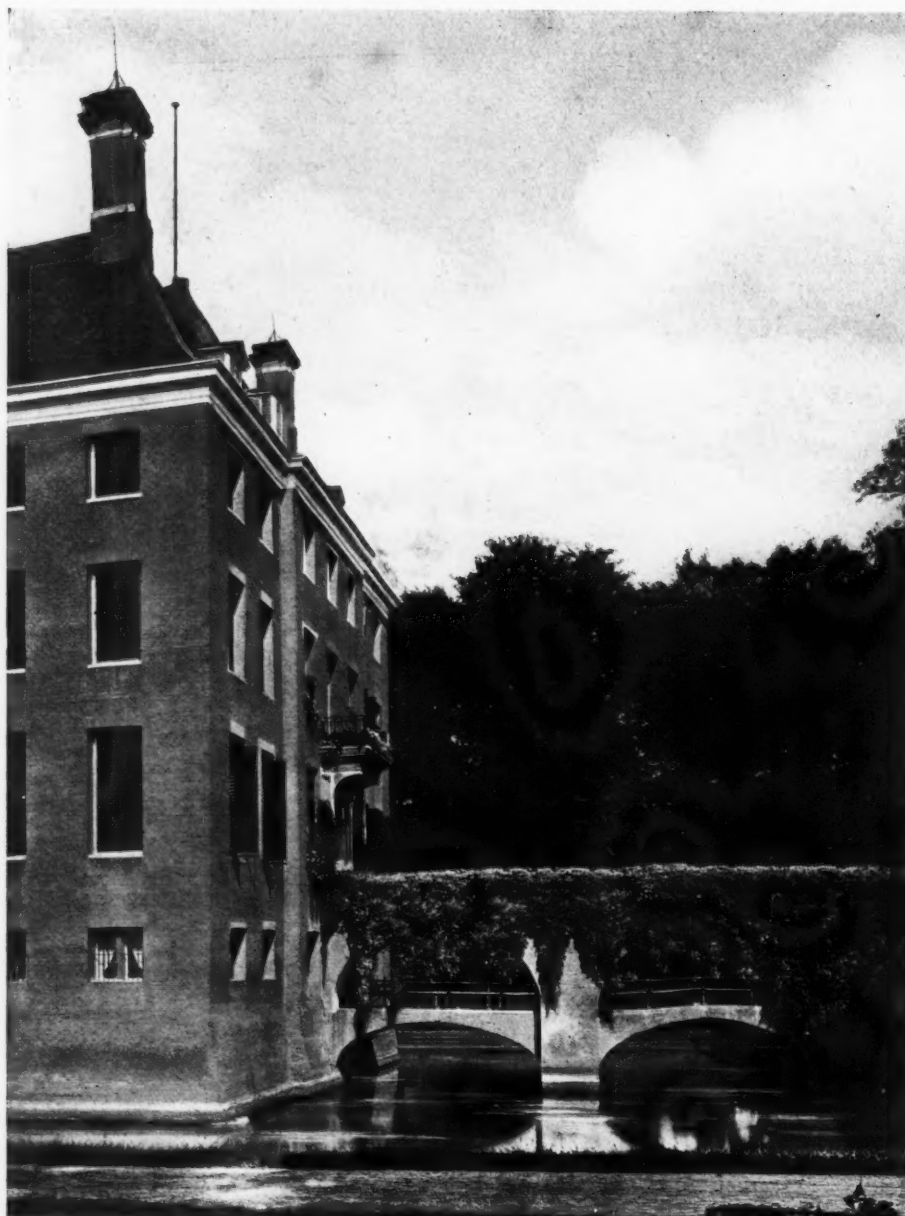
THE CEILING OF THE ENTRANCE HALL.



THE DRAWING-ROOM.



IN THE GROUNDS.



THE DOUBLE BRIDGE.

old house which stood on the present site, marked as it was by stepped gables and towers, as is evident from old pictures. It has been called "a great house practically untouched and an interesting monument of an interesting period." This praise is enhanced by the story which we were able to give last week from the letter of a correspondent, who recounted the romantic discovery of the beautifully furnished interior by Count Godard Bentinck after it had been closed more than a century. Most people will agree that the castle is much too fine for its present occupant. Had he lived in the Middle Ages and been English, he would have found lodging in the Tower until such time as he atoned for his guilt on the block.

We cannot believe that for any great length of time he will be allowed to remain in Holland, although his sanguine temperament may induce him to hope it may be otherwise. But Holland is too near Germany. In days to come it may easily happen that the fragments of the Pan-Germanic party may come together with the object of replacing William on his throne. That would be the signal for another war, which probably would begin with a civil war in Germany itself. It certainly has been made apparent that those opposed to absolute monarchy in Germany are numerically superior to those in favour of it. For a dethroned king there is no returning on his footsteps. On the other hand, it may become the business of the Allies at no distant date to bring the Kaiser to justice, although it would be more satisfactory if his people did so. It would be for no kingly crime that he would be prosecuted, but for pillage, murder and the deaths of women and children. Should he be induced by his sanguine, optimistic temperament to remain in the neighbourhood of the country he has brought to ruin, worse may happen to him than anything that has yet befallen him. The German citizen cannot but recall with bitterness and despair that the once flourishing empire to which he belongs might have gone on growing in prosperity and power but for this man, who threw away all that the great State had gained by centuries of labour.

[We are indebted to Colonel H. H. Mulliner for his kindness in lending us these photographs of Amerongen.—E.D.]



# ORGANISATION IN AGRICULTURE

ORGANISATION is a wide term with many applications. It refers with equal directness to the three main classes who derive their incomes directly from the profits of husbandry—the small-holder, the farmer and the owner occupier. For the moment we are concerned with the last mentioned. For him, as for the rest of us, a new era is dawning, and his position will be neither comfortable nor prosperous unless he considers well what it behoves him to do and how he is going to do it. One thing is certain. Either by chance or of set purpose circumstances have shaped themselves in a way to discourage the landlord who is a mere rent charger. His survival can only be made possible by his usefulness. His burdens are increased and so are his responsibilities, and there is no way left in which he can enlarge his income save by replacing his dependence on rents by dependence on the fruits of his industry. Undoubtedly the best and only clear way out of the difficulty is for him to take the farming of his estate into his own hands, just as the most satisfactory course for the farmer is to acquire the ownership of his holding and be his own landlord. At present he is living under a threat. "The country landlord is doomed," said, on Saturday, the ablest of the Liberal weeklies. Should that harsh judgment be carried out, he will have himself to blame. The Prime Minister, calculating on the basis of the additional quantity of food to be grown, estimates that an additional 400,000 men ought to find employment on the land. Of these it is hoped that a very considerable proportion will own the land they till in the shape of peasant proprietors, farmer proprietors or estate owners cultivating their own ground. The business of the little owner will be to increase productivity to its maximum. He cannot live unless he can obtain for his few acres much more per acre than contents the man who farms on a large scale. A profit of £1 an acre would yield £500 a year to the men who farm 500 acres. A profit of £1 an acre would only give £25 a year to a man who tried to live on a holding of 25 acres. The little holder must therefore specialise; the estate owner must produce in bulk. He, so to speak, is the factory while the small-holder is the hand worker. There is, thanks to the variety of British soils and the miscellaneous character of the needs to which they minister, room for all, and in each section a considerable growth may be expected to take place. The number of farmers buying their own land steadily increases; so do the peasant owners, and from a national point of view this is all to the good. He who owns even a minute portion of the soil tends to become an element lending stability to the State. Moreover, in this direction lies the opportunity to obtain a robust, healthy and independent rural population. In the case of the owning occupier it is not increased number of men we have to look to so much as increased produce. The economy of working on a large scale when the demand for any kind of goods is enormous is well understood in every other branch of industry. The big factory tends ever to be more useful and profitable than the small one; so it is with food production. Sir Daniel Hall's ideal of great factory farms would not be altogether desirable if it were intended that it should engulf all other systems. But with the right men and on the right land it should lead to results which would banish for ever the scare of famine in any circumstances. But farming in this way involves a much more strenuous life than that of the estate owner who has been accustomed to delegate the work of cultivation either to tenants or an agent, and has looked upon the land chiefly as a source of health and pleasure. He must take off his coat and grapple with his task in good earnest if he is to succeed. Yet he is not set on impossible or even difficult tasks. Farms in hand used to be regarded more or less as petty misfortunes, as often as not involving a more or less considerable loss to the proprietor. The problem is how to convert this loss into gain. He who would solve it must begin by applying business methods and business organisation, to agriculture. If not himself trained in science, he must at all events know its conclusions and keep himself well abreast of its discoveries. His material aim is to make profit by growing food on a large scale. This means that he must grow more; in other words, raise productivity to the highest point attainable simultaneously with a large output. This must be done also at the smallest expense consistent with efficiency. It will not pay him to employ cheap labour, but it will be to his interest to reduce his labour bill by using every kind of labour-saving machinery that will serve his purpose. That, then, is one

subject on which he must keep his information up to date and his judgment cool but decided. Another branch of science to which it will be necessary to give attention is that embraced by the use of artificial manures. He may not have a complete knowledge of the chemistry of the soil, and yet must not depend too implicitly on the analysis of those who do. Soil is a changing factor. It varies with the character of the weather, as when land is impoverished by long winter rains and with the crops grown, to say nothing of other influences which are but dimly understood by those who have devoted a lifetime to the study.

But instead of discussing this matter in the abstract, it may be more useful, as it certainly will be more interesting, to take a single case as illustrating the force of the argument. It would not be easy to find a better one than is offered by Mr. Douglas Newton on his Croxton Park Estate, situated on the Cambridgeshire borders of Huntingdonshire and about four and a half miles from St. Neots. Mr. Newton's business ability is well known, and he has been applying it with success to the comparatively new style of estate management. He farms about 1,000 acres, which at one time were let off in holdings, with results that were not quite satisfactory. The most important change he has made is that of dividing the land into four approximately equal portions, each of which is under the management of a working foreman. Each foreman has under him a competent staff of workers, and an essential point is that the duties of each individual are carefully and clearly defined, so that there is no difficulty in ascertaining when anything goes wrong to whose negligence or ill luck it is due. That is a very great point in organisation. We know the muddles continually arising in the working of home farms and land in hand. Each individual having no hard and fast definition of his duties was able to shuffle the blame for any loss or mistake from his own shoulders on to those of somebody else, and often the closest enquiry did not avail to fit the cap to the right head. The staff at Croxton Park works with military precision. Another very important point is that the owner, long before it begins, works out the plan of campaign for each year's cultivation. Field by field it is arranged what the successional crop is to be and the preparation to be made for it. The arrangement works well, but it brings out the fact that there is an essential difference between factory and farm work. A factory hand, unless the circumstances are very exceptional indeed, is able to do on each date what has been allotted to him. The weather precludes the application of such a cast-iron rule to farming. For instance, it may be highly desirable to have the winter wheat sown before the middle of October. But if heavy and unintermittent rain were to fall, those who attempted to carry out the instruction regardless of the weather would do more harm than good. Fortunately, on a farm it is always possible to provide an alternative job when the performance of the most important task is interfered with by climatic conditions. This is duly attended to in the chart of instructions issued, and the tasks are arranged in order of priority. If a man cannot do one thing he must turn to another. Another essential to securing the best labour is to understand clearly what the standard task should be. Some time ago Mr. T. P. Ponsonby published in one of the Journals devoted to agriculture an essay on the standardisation of labour, to which we drew attention at the time. It is now issued as a pamphlet by the Dublin Co-operative Reference Library, "Standardisation as a Means of Improving the Conditions of Rural Employment." The chief aim of this work is to show what an ordinary efficient labourer should perform in a day. It does not deal with a maximum, but with the average amount which should be done by a competent man. It also gives the data by which the standard work of an implement can be gauged. This depends upon the distance travelled and the width of the implement. Something further may be said of Mr. Ponsonby's excellent idea on a future occasion. It is enough to say here that Mr. Newton has adapted it to his own uses. He recognises it as an admirable plan for ascertaining if a man has done his day's work, and, if he has done more, determining the bonus to which he is entitled. It is obviously to the interest of the employer to reward anyone who exceeds the standard task. A bonus of 2s. per acre is given in the winter ploughing season for every completed acre in excess of three acres ploughed by a team of three horses in a week, and a higher bonus per acre if ploughed by a two-horse team if the work is well done, the quality to be judged by the foreman. The employer is attending to his own interest by paying extra. The

merit of the arrangement needs no dwelling upon. It is a check on idleness, but this is not of itself so very important, because, where a standard day's work is marked out, the labourer almost invariably stretches a point to reach it. Far more important is the keenness and zeal which it infuses into the work of the farm. Moreover, it supplies a most useful key for the setting of piecework.

A matter of organisation which has not received anything like the attention it deserves is the care of foodstuffs, seeds, crops, artificial manures and, in fact, the whole of the material handled on a farm. The waste arising from the feeding of animals, for instance, is incalculable on the average holding. In the past stockmen and farm labourers generally had not the slightest idea of economy in feeding animals with anything to which they had unlimited access. As to the idea of rationing an animal, it was foreign to them. But this slovenly method will not meet the exigencies of modern farming. Feeding has become a fine art, and it is most essential that it should be carried out according to detailed directions. One cannot expect a labourer to understand the nicety with which one food is weighed or measured to balance with another, and the only sure way is to make him work by absolute rule. Then again, enormous waste occurs in the use of artificial manure and seed corn. If left to himself a labourer would sow wheat as thick as mustard and cress, and the use of artificial manures is something to which he has not as yet been very long accustomed. It would be scarcely fair to expect him to know which of them deteriorate by exposure to the atmosphere or dampness and which do not, although ignorance on these points may lead to loss alike of the manure and the crop it was intended to forward. Mr. Newton has got over the difficulty by making a great central store, from which nothing can be drawn without the authority of a form, on which the essential particulars are noted. The system conduces greatly to that strict economy without which profits are not to be obtained. Of scarcely less importance is the

use of a telephonic installation on the estate. It is very ingeniously arranged, on the principle that while the owner can call up his foreman or other chief officials at the places where they ought to be, they are unable to call him up except through the office, so that he is saved the incessant worry of attending to the trivial matters about which they would invariably speak. The telephone is a necessary implement to the chief of staff, who is ultimately responsible for directing the whole work of the estate. It also enables him to ascertain progress day by day, and it is invaluable for calling up the vet. or other help in time of trouble.

1918-19. CROPPING SCHEME. FOR MEADOW FARM.				
Name of Field.	No. of Field.	Cropping and Acreage Cropped.	Manure per Acre.	Total Manure for Crop.
Little Gravels (10.50)	157	Winter beans	5 cwt. slag	2 tons 12½ cwt. slag.
Plantation Field (12.00)	159	Winter beans 6 acres	5 cwt. slag	1 ton 10 cwt. slag.
Caldecot (15.00)	173	Wheat (Ycoman)	3 cwt. super. 1 cwt. sulph. amm.	2 tons 5 cwt. super., 15 cwt. sulph. amm.
War Field (27.00)	158	Wheat (Benefactor)	3 cwt. super.	4 tons 1 cwt. super.
Top Breach (30.50)	136	Wheat (Square-head)	60 bushels soot	1,830 bushels soot.
Langlands (11.00)	132	Potatoes	10 cwt. guano	5 tons 10 cwt. guano.

Oa's, Barley, Mangolds, etc.

NOTE.

The crops are scheduled on the scheme according to the priority of sowing.

This will give an idea of the care with which cropping plans are made beforehand. We hope to return to this interesting subject.

P. A. G.

## THE ELECTRIFICATION OF SEEDS

### A REVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE

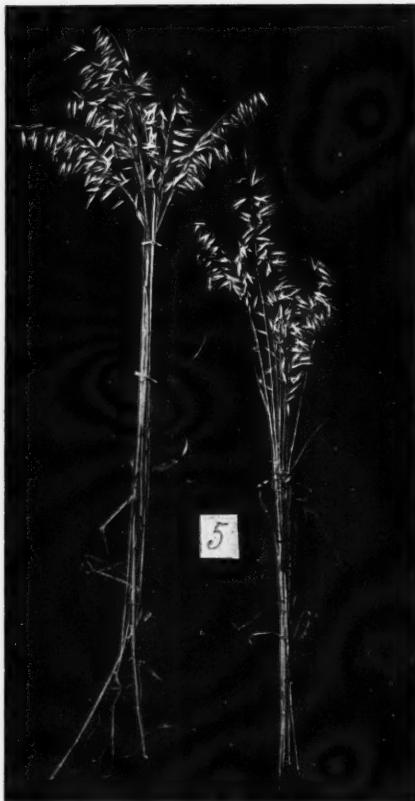
BY CHARLES A. MERCIER, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

SEED corn can be electrified at a central station, which can supply a very large area. Each operation lasts only a few hours, during which attention can continuously be paid to it to see that nothing goes wrong. The process is very inexpensive, and the plant, once installed, needs no removal to supply a new area, no addition to supply an additional area.

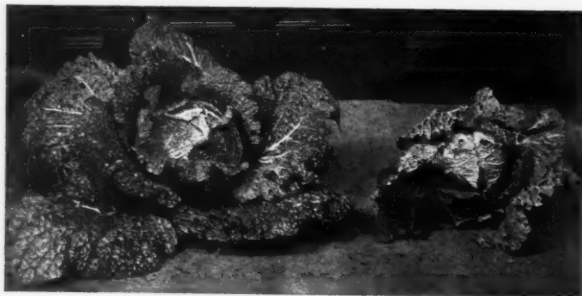
The process is novel. There was no previous experience whatever to go upon, and the inventor, Mr. Fry, had to feel his way to success by the tedious process of trial and error, making many mistakes on the way, suffering many disappointments, checked in every direction but the right one, and learning from every failure the way to success. Beginning first in a few pots, the experiments were soon extended to a patch of garden ground; then a neighbouring farmer was persuaded to sow, very reluctantly, and sorely against the grain, a few plots of agricultural land. Seeing the results, he was less reluctant the next season; and as year by year his crops from electrified seed continued to contrast favourably with those from untreated seed, he sowed a larger and larger acreage with the former, until now he sows no unelectrified seed, except a small patch in each field for comparison; and from being an utter sceptic he is now become an enthusiastic advocate of the process.

Farmers meet at market and talk about the weather and their crops, and thus news of the process spread in the neighbourhood, and one farmer after another adopted it, first only as a trial, and on a few acres of ground, but when they had had

experience of it, upon larger and larger acreages, until at the present harvest a hundred and fifty farmers have reaped corn grown from electrified seed. Farmers are a cautious and conservative race, not eager to adopt new methods until these have been well tried at other people's risk, and have had their value proved beyond question; and those who tried the electrified seed for the first time tried it upon a few acres only, so that the total acreage thus sown last season was not much more than 2,000; but 2,000 acres is quite enough ground to yield a thorough and satisfactory test, especially when the tests are



Oats grown from electrified (left) and unelectrified (right) seed.



Savoy cabbages grown from electrified (left) and unelectrified (right) seed.

scattered over many different parts of the country, on many different soils, from the infertile sands and newly ploughed heaths of Dorset to the chalk around Salisbury Plain and the stiff clays



of Cheshire. No doubt a much larger acreage would have been sown with electrified seed if efforts had been made to spread a knowledge of its advantages; but no such efforts have been made. The inventor is an old man; he is wrapped up in his experiments, which are continually increasing his knowledge of the process. The more he investigates it, and the wider the scope of his experiments, the greater are the advantages they reveal. As it is, quite enough is known, first to prove that the process is one of very great value if properly conducted, and second to enable it to be conducted to the best advantage, eliminating with certainty all the errors that vitiated the results in some of the early experiments, and a substantial increase in the crop.

In the first place, there is a notable increase in the yield of grain from the electrified seed. An average crop of wheat in this country is about 30 bushels per acre, of oats 48 bushels to 80 bushels, of barley 32 bushels to 40 bushels. If electrified and unelectrified seed of any of these crops are sown separately in the same field on the same day and treated in every respect alike, it is found that, according to the nature of the crop and other circumstances as yet imperfectly known, the yield of the electrified seed exceeds that of the unelectrified by from one to four sacks per acre, each sack containing 4 bushels. The average of the considerable number of trials whose results are at present known is between 25 per cent. and 30 per cent. of increase. This result alone justifies, nay, almost demands, the adoption of the process; but this is far from being the whole of the advantage that it gives.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY.

The quality of the crop also, as indicated by the weight per bushel, is improved. The amount of increase in weight has ranged from 1lb. to as much as 4lb. per bushel. This does not seem a large proportion of the weight of an average bushel, which is about 63lb., but the variations from this average weight are not wide. A poor sample of wheat weighs 60lb. to the bushel, a good sample weighs 64lb., and 66lb. to the bushel is an exceptionally fine sample. It is evident that a gain of from 1lb. to 4lb. to the bushel may make all the difference between a poor sample and a good sample, between a good sample and an excellent sample. It means better milling quality, less offal, and more flour per bushel. It may mean all the difference between corn that can be used only for milling and corn that can be used for seed. At the present time milling wheat sells at 76s. (\$19) per quarter, which is 9s. 6d. (\$2.37) per bushel; but seed corn sells at 15s. (\$3.75) per bushel. Hence the electrification of his seed wheat may give the farmer an advantage of 5s. 6d. (\$1.38) per bushel in the price, as well as an advantage of, on the average, 8 bushels per acre. On this basis his untreated seed will yield him £17 2s. (\$85.50) per acre, while his electrified seed will yield him £33 (\$165) from the same area. I do not say that this extra yield will always be obtained. The extra weight will not always be sufficient to convert milling corn into seed corn. An extra yield of 25 per cent. is not always obtained. It is sometimes much more, and sometimes a good deal less; but some considerable profit can be reckoned on with confidence, and the extra profit I have mentioned has, in fact, been obtained.

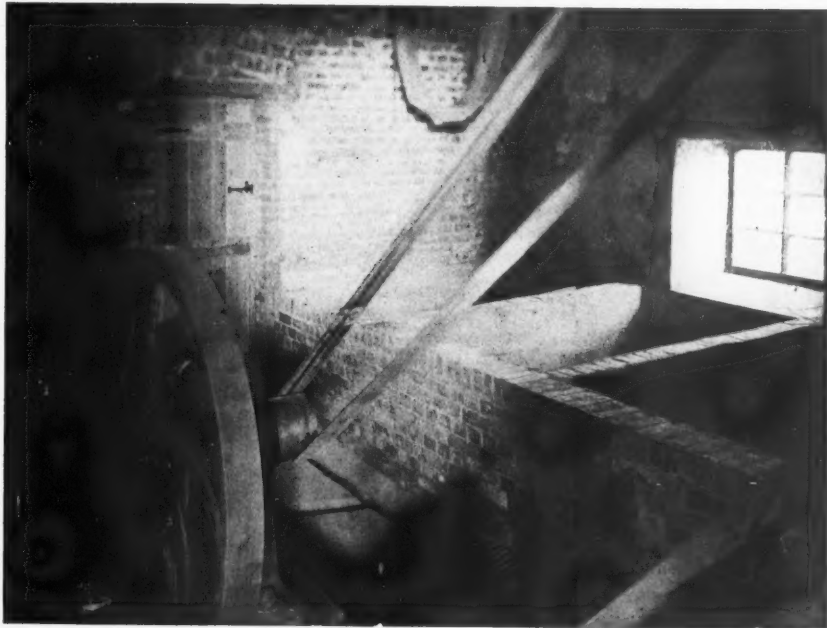
#### INCREASE IN STRAW.

Even this is not all the advantage to be gained by using electrified seed. Besides the increase in the bulk of the yield and the increase in the weight per bushel, there is an increase in the straw that may be very important. The straw is increased in three ways. In the first place, the electrified seed tillers more than the unelectrified; that is to say, the former throws up more straws from each seed. In one field of oats the increase was characterised by a previously sceptical expert as "astounding," for whereas the bulk of the unelectrified seed had thrown up only two culms or straws per seed, the electrified had thrown up five! In the second place, the straw growing from the electrified seed is longer than that which grows from the unelectrified. The increase in length varies, as the

increase in the bulk and weight of the grain varies. The straw is in some cases only 1in. or 2ins., in other cases as much as 8ins. longer, but in every case the length of the straw crop is increased. In the third place—and this is the most important—the stoutness and strength of the straw are increased. From this it results that the crop is less liable to be laid by storms of wind and rain. In one case the visitors to a farm, who had gone for the purpose of inspecting the electrified and unelectrified crops growing side by side, asked the farmer to show them the dividing line between the two. His answer was memorable. "Go and look for yourselves," said he, "no one but a blind man could fail to see the difference." And truly it was so. When we



DRYING THE SEED.



THE TROUGHS IN WHICH THE SEED IS ELECTRIFIED.

visited the field we found that on half of it nearly the whole of the barley was lying flat upon the ground, laid by the recent thunderstorms. On the other half not a straw was laid. The whole crop was standing upright waiting for the reaper. Practical farmers who know the difficulty of reaping a laid crop, and the damage and loss that such a crop suffers in the gathering, will appreciate the benefit derived from increasing the strength of the straw.

#### POSSIBLE PROTECTION AGAINST DISEASE.

Even these that have been mentioned are not all the advantages that may be gained from electrifying seed corn. From observations that have been made it seems that corn growing from seed thus treated is less susceptible to the attacks of fungous diseases than that growing from seed that has not been treated. Little can be said at present on this score, for the observations are as yet incomplete, and experiments are in progress that will

test the matter up to the hilt. All that can be said at present is that there seems to be a great likelihood that the process is protective against smut, bunt, rust and other fungous diseases. It is certain, at any rate, that the treatment does not increase the susceptibility of the plant to diseases of this character.

#### DISADVANTAGES.

So much for the advantages of the process. Now what of its disadvantages? These are few, and can scarcely be considered serious. The first is that, if the process is not properly carried out, the result will be disappointing. This can scarcely be considered a drawback to the process itself. It is a simple process, easily performed, occupying only a few hours, and no more difficult than the process of dyeing a parcel of yarn or sterilising a surgical dressing; but, like these operations, it requires the use of a certain technique; it needs a certain amount of skill and experience, and cannot safely be entrusted to inexperienced hands. Properly performed, it can neither damage the seed nor fail to enhance its value.

Secondly, the effect produced upon the seed is not permanent. After a time it diminishes and at length disappears. It is, therefore, desirable that the seed should be sown promptly after it has been electrified. It will retain its enhanced efficacy for about a month after electrification if it is in the meantime kept in a dry place; but it will not retain its new power for an indefinite time. The drawback is not a serious one, but if not known and allowed for, it may lead to disappointment and to undeserved discredit being thrown upon the process.

Thirdly, the advantage accruing from the process is not uniform. There always is an advantage. The process always results in an increase in the yield of the seed; but whether the increase will be mainly in the grain or mainly in the straw, and what percentage of increase it will effect, are uncertain and unpredictable. In some cases the increase is as little as 10 per cent; in other cases it is as much as 60 and even more per cent; but how much of increase will result is quite uncertain. The best results are often obtained on poor land, where the untreated corn gives but a small return, but is by no means uniformly so. What the conditions are that go to secure the largest increases are at present unknown. Doubtless they will be ascertained in time when more experience has been had and the rationale of the process is better understood, but at present we cannot say beforehand whether the crop will be greatly benefited or only moderately benefited. All that we can say is that it will be benefited.

#### THE NATURE OF THE PROCESS.

The process is very simple in principle, though it requires a good deal of care and of experience in carrying it out. A current of electricity cannot be passed through a heap of dry seed. In order to pass it uniformly through a mass of grain, the grain must be steeped in water and the water must contain in solution some salt that will act as a conductor. Such a solution is placed in a tank, the seed is steeped in it, and while steeping, a weak current of electricity is passed by means of electrodes of large surface attached to two opposite end walls of the tank. The seed is then taken out and dried. This is the outline of the process, but the outline needs a good deal of filling in. The kind of salt employed

to enable the water to conduct the electricity is not without importance. Seed that is to be sown on one kind of soil will yield better results with a calcium salt, and seed that is to be sown on another kind of soil will yield better results with sodium or other salt. One kind of seed will need treatment for so many hours, and another kind for many more or fewer. Barley, for instance, needs twice as long treatment as wheat or oats. The strength of the solution and the strength of the current must be appropriate, and are not necessarily the same in each case. The drying is very important. The seed must be dried at the right temperature, neither too rapidly nor too slowly; and it must be dried to the right degree, neither too much nor too little.

It will take many years before all the benefit that can be obtained from the process is finally arrived at, but enough is already known to make it of great value. At present it has been worked out only for wheat, oats and barley; but experiments have shown that its advantages extend to many other kinds of seed. Turnips and other roots, maize, rice, cabbage and many other plants grown from seed are known to benefit, but for these the process is not yet recommended, because the exact conditions have not been thoroughly ascertained. Some of the most remarkable results have been obtained from electrifying "seed" potatoes; but the results are not yet sufficiently uniform to justify its application on a large scale to potatoes. The successful application of electrification to them is, however, a matter only of time, and of no long time. In another season or two it will be made as uniformly successful with them as it already is with cereals.

#### FUTURE PROSPECTS.

It is very difficult to induce farmers, especially in these times of scarcity of labour, to incur trouble, expense, and it may be delay, in order to keep separate the electrified and unelectrified crops, and to measure and weigh them separately. The farmer says: "I am satisfied, and I intend to have my seed electrified in future; but I am not going to incur trouble and expense at the busiest time of year in order to satisfy other people. Let them make a trial for themselves as I have done."

Certain farmers have, however, gone to this trouble, and we are indebted to them for the following results shown by the harvest of 1918 in trial areas. The results were obtained by measuring carefully an area of two perches, reaping this area, threshing the corn, and measuring the product. This was done on seven different farms, and the results show the following percentages: 0, 9, 16, 39, 45, 50, and 61, the average being more than 31.

In the case of the neutral result the field was very patchy, and the two perches of electrified corn grew on a patch of gravel, while the unelectrified grew on good soil. The whole of the crops on this field have, however, been kept separate, and after threshing will be measured separately, when a very different result will be shown.

With respect to the straw, 75 culms of unelectrified straw tied up in a bundle measured 3½ ins. in circumference. The same number of culms of electrified straw from the same field measured 4½ ins., an excess of more than 26 per cent.

## LITERATURE

### TWO BOOKS OF THE WEEK

*The Village Wife's Lament*, by Maurice Hewlett. (Martin Secker.)  
*Forty New Poems*, by W. H. Davies. (A. C. Fifield.)

COMPARISONS, we know, are "odorous," but it is impossible to avoid contrasting the spirit of Mr. Maurice Hewlett and Mr. W. H. Davies. Both of their books are extremely interesting and touch the high-water mark of the respective authors. Mr. Hewlett has not written anything comparable to this poem. He adds to it a note which the lover of poetry, if he be wise, will carefully ignore. It is to the effect that the opinions on war expressed by the village wife are his own. "I think," he says, "that my own convictions about aggressive war are very much those of my village wife." But political opinion has nothing whatever to do with literature. We, at any rate, do not propose to enter into a discussion of this question just now. The assertion that this poem is the finest we have read by Mr. Maurice Hewlett is based on its veracity, imaginative understanding and perfect fidelity to Nature. Mr. Hewlett has created a character which deserves a permanent place in literature. The poem is written in an irregular measure with here and there an accent that reminds us of "the Nut Brown Mayde." The woman is fashioned by the creative hand of a novelist. A sincere and affecting picture is given of her homely life in the cottage. Five girls and a mother and—

How we did on Father's money  
 Is more than I can tell.

The credit was due partly to the money from the bees,  
 but still more to the work of one who is busier than any bee  
 —the cottage mother:

When we were fed and clean for school,  
 Out Mother goes,  
 Rinsing, rubbing, her hands full  
 Of other people's clothes.  
 If there's one thought above another  
 Sets my heart singing,  
 It's thinking of my little sweet Mother,  
 Her arms full of linen.

And yet she rul'd her house and all  
 Us girls within it;  
 There was no meal but we could fall  
 To it at the minute;  
 Thing there was none, said, thought or done,  
 But she must know it,  
 Nor any errand to be run  
 But she made us go it.

She with her anxious, watchful glance,  
 Blue under her glasses,  
 Was meat and drink and providence  
 To us five lasses.  
 Out she fetcht from hidden stores  
 White frocks for Sundays,  
 And always nice clean pinafores  
 Against school, Mondays.



Looking back on her childhood she calls up the teasing of the boys, the saucy names they gave to the girls—"Mine was 'Maypole Nance,'" "The windy bickering games" and all the romping and the glory. Then, at sixteen, her schooling days done, she goes to "a place" and meets the shepherd whom she was ultimately to marry. A separation, the shadow of a difference came between them, but it all passed to the sound of wedding bells. The wise, steadfast man is a companion picture to that of the girl:

He never was a man to talk,  
He was too wise;  
But things he'd see out on his walk  
Would blind another's eyes.  
But when it came to speak about them  
'Twas another thing.  
He'd say, "What use is it to shout them?  
I want to sing!"  
A smallish head, with jet-black hair  
And eyes grey-blue,  
You felt when'er he lookt you fair  
That he must be true;  
And when he smil'd his dear and shy way  
Sidelong his mouth,  
I always thought the sun fell my way  
And the wind South.

When war broke out in August, 1914, she was one of the last to hear of it. She was full of her own news:

I serv'd my love, when he came home,  
His meal: then on his knee  
I told him what I might become,  
And he kiss'd me;  
Then said, "Indeed, there may be need  
Of this little one,  
For many a woman's heart must bleed  
For wanting of a son.

"Since we awoke, the word is spoke,  
And if 'tis still right  
That English folk keep faith unbroke,  
Then must England fight."

So it goes on till the village boys begin to leave for the war:

How young, how gay they marcht away,  
All our village boys!  
Leaving us women here to pray,  
Drowning with their noise  
M'sdoubt and eager mother-love,  
Hungry on the watch,  
As if they went to race and shove  
In a football match.

And the shepherd heard the country's call also

He stood still, and his gaze  
Was far off, and slow  
And quiet the words he says  
"Nancy, I must go."

In my still heart's deep  
I gloried in the trust  
He handed me to keep,  
In his quiet "I must."

No more we said that night  
But sat in the gloom;  
We sat without candle-light  
In our little room.

The story goes on in a way too well known, too oft repeated:

Upon a wild March morn  
My husband went to France;  
The day my child was born  
His word came to advance.

'Twas on that very day  
When my life should be crown'd,  
As I lay in, he lay  
Broken upon the ground.

For my loss there was gain,  
But his precious blood  
Was shed to earth like rain  
Within the shatter'd wood.

But she did not know for sure that her love was dead till the wounded came home. On a note of resignation and hope the book ends:

I'll look upon the steadfast stars,  
Patient and true and wise,  
And read in them the end of wars,  
As in my dead love's eyes.

Further comment is unnecessary. The extracts given will indicate the sincerity and humanity of the poem. We shall

only indulge in one more quotation, a lovely description of England:

Then far away I saw the sea  
A rippling golden sheet,  
And courage flowed again in me—  
What foe could break thro' it?  
And all about the fields and hedges,  
There when I was born,  
The river slipping through the sedges,  
And the growing corn—

A land of quiet tilth and cote,  
Of little woods and streams,  
Of gentle skics and clouds afloat,  
And swift sun-gleams!  
A land where knee-deep cattle keep,  
Chewing as they stand;  
Of hillsides murmurous with sheep—  
That is my native land!

Mr. W. H. Davies, the super-tramp, seems to have lived through the war without realising it. His poetry ought not to be condemned on that account, nor will it be condemned because it contains a number of lascivious little love songs, very much out of keeping with the spirit of the time. The poet is frank and sincere, and art is eternal. Catullus, loveliest of Roman singers "twenty hundred years ago," Ovid, Anacreon, Chaucer, Lovelace, and Burns may, in the respect to which we have alluded, claim him as their kin; but the most catholic minded lover of literature cannot help feeling a kind of jar when the poet's half dozen allusions to the war show that he has not in any way appreciated its great significance. A misplaced and vulgar wit is put into the mouth of an old woman of ninety:

For me, I cannot relish food, or sleep  
Till God sees fit to hold the Kaiser fast,  
Stabbed, shot, or hanged—and his black soul  
Sent into hell, to bubble, burn and squeal;  
Think of the price of fish—and look at bacon!

Equally unworthy of the spirit of the age is the song:—

They're taxing Ale again, I hear,  
A penny more the can;  
They're taxing poor old Ale again,  
The only honest man.

and the only serious reflection occurs in the little poem called "In Time of War." Evidently we want to be at a greater distance from recent events before we can mete out justice to this volume. Yet, in order to show that the right hand of Mr. Davies has not forgot its cunning it is enough to quote the last verse of "A Winter's Night":

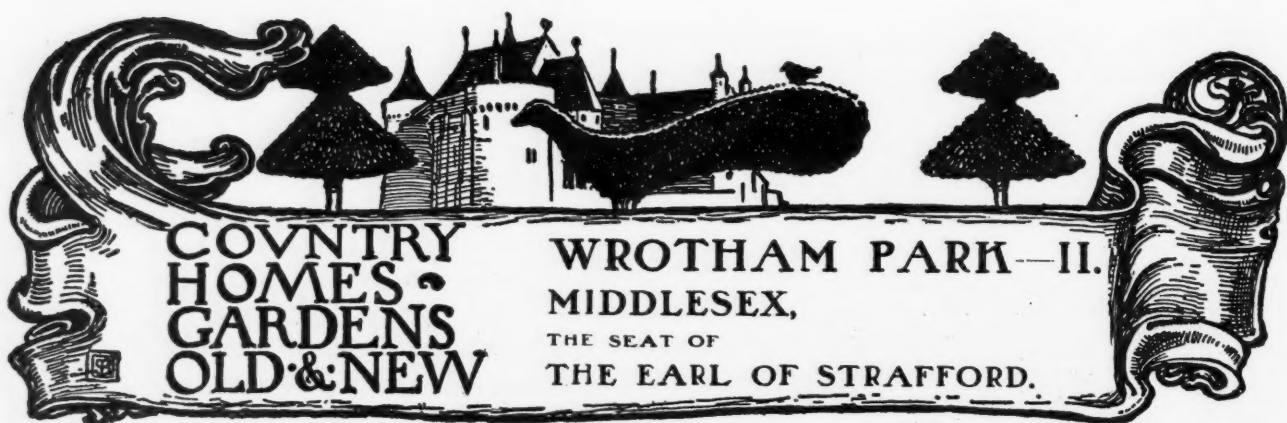
And what strange beauty I behold:  
The wild fast-driven clouds this night  
Hurled at the moon, whose smiling face  
Still shines with undiminished light.

**Moon of Israel**, by H. Rider Haggard. (Murray, 7s.)

THE Christian nations have been wont, perhaps inevitably, to look at the stories of the Old Testament from the point of view of the Hebrews; and how their history in its making must have appeared, say, to the contemporary Philistine it has scarcely crossed our minds to speculate. Sir Rider Haggard, in his new book, has chosen a more uncommon standpoint and has elected to make us spectators on the Egyptian side of the struggle between Pharaoh and Moses, which led to the departure of Israel into the desert. A mere plain tale of carefully worked out probabilities, interesting as it might have been, would scarcely have fulfilled what is required of fiction, so we have the Prince of Egypt on the side of Israel, though it costs him his throne, and a lovely Hebrew maiden, Merapi, the moon of Israel, leaving her people for his sake. From all the plagues save the last the Prince and Merapi are secured by the power of the Hebrews, but their firstborn dies with the other Egyptian children, and their happiness is over. We are allowed to see the pursuit to the Red Sea and the overthrowing of Pharaoh's host as it might have appeared to an Egyptian, and the book ends with the death of Merapi and afterwards of her Prince. It is not perhaps quite as thrilling as some of the stories with which Sir Rider Haggard has entertained us; indeed, at times the action drags a little, and neither Israelites nor Egyptians seem to have been very pleasant people to meet. But it is certainly an interesting book and one likely to give amusement or food for reflection, according to the temperament of the reader.

**A Pillar of Fire**, by H. C. Bailey. (Methuen, 6s.)

THIS is an account of the adventures of one Lucius Dale, secretary to Lord Palmerston. The book bristles with exciting incidents of all sorts, commencing with the murder of an Austrian spy at an evening party at Cambridge House. Suspicion of the murder falls upon the wrong person, of course! but eventually the mystery is cleared up. The great Garibaldi is introduced into the story, and if the real Garibaldi was anything like the Garibaldi of the story it is difficult to understand the devotion he inspired. As is usual, Dale speaks within inverted commas, but thinks without these, which is a little unusual. He has a way of saying somewhat insulting things to many of the people whom he comes into contact with, but apparently they do not resent this in the slightest. *A Pillar of Fire* may very well do to while away an idle hour, but it is not by any means a great book.



**W**ROTHAM PARK is laid out on the simple lines of a centre and two wings with connecting links. In formulating this distribution of the plan Ware, as a devoted adherent of orthodox Palladian doctrine, is greatly concerned about the compromises, that he was practical enough to see were necessary, between theoretical proportions of length, breadth, and height as given in Palladian treatises, and the actualities of house building in England. Adam, who early favoured this type of plan in outline, handled it boldly as a scheme of masses that should be effective by contrast of light and shade. He would never have made the links so deep as we see them in the plan of Wrotham by Ware.

Further, variety of planning must, so Ware teaches, be subordinated to the superior economy of squares and oblongs, and he trembles at the expense of circular or elliptical features in house building. While, therefore, everything is very practical and convenient there is no climax of internal effect in his scheme. A shapely entrance hall and a view down the great length of corridor represent all that he has attempted, for the staircase, though large, only counts as a subordinate feature. It is to be understood, of course, that the fire of 1883, which reduced the interior of Wrotham to its original carcase condition, has left little of Ware's original detail within. This fire fortunately began in the roof, and thus gave time for the salvage of the furniture and pictures. In the hall is a round table with dolphin supports quite in Ware's version of the late Venetian taste affected by Kent. Right and left of the entrance door are two Chinese Chippendale gilt console tables and pier glasses. The columns of the hall screen, now in porphyry scagliola, are, with their entablature, quite in accordance with Ware's version of Palladian Ionic, but the actual material is, of course, later, as the introduction of scagliola in England was due to Wyatt in 1770. No doubt the columns were either white or stone colour, as it is doubtful if they would have been marbled.

Ware informs his young architect studying the "Compleat Body" that the employer will determine the degree and taste of the ornaments to be employed. A doctrine agreeable no doubt

to his patron, Lord Chesterfield, who lays down that a house should be Italian outside and French within. Poor Ware, disliking Regency Rococo, is accordingly much exercised with the problem of restraining its exuberances within the bounds of "Compartition," according to Palladio. Admiral Byng was probably more amenable. It is true he buys and signs his name "J. Byng, Sept. 1, 1736," in a copy of Hopper's Palladio, 1736, dedicated to Richard Boyle, Earl Burlington, unquestionably the work condemned as inaccurate by Ware in the preface of his own edition of the same master (1738). Ware handles this recent publication very gingerly, he "names no name," as he also was inscribing his dedication to Burlington. He protests his own perfect accuracy, and the superior advantage he had



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THE WINDING DRIVE

"COUNTRY LIFE."



enjoyed in "free access to his Lordship's study," wherein were treasured the priceless Palladian originals brought by the Earl from Barbaro's Villa at Maser. Ware does not hesitate to mention by name Leoni's edition of 1721, justly condemning his unwarrantable licence, though that able architect had also been one of the Earl's earliest associates. A curious insight into the inner relations of the set is afforded by Ware's statement that the screen wall towards Piccadilly of old Burlington House, the subject of one of the best known of

in his challenge, "Who plants like Bathurst, and who builds like Boyle."

It cannot be said that Isaac Ware's own work rises above a certain pleasantness of orthodox propriety. He bows before the mastery of Inigo Jones, and tells the architect to look upon himself as a dwarf, borne upon the shoulders of the mighty Palladio, and in this simple faith he pursues the even tenor of his delightful practice. Happily for his peace of mind he dies in 1766, as secure in the permanence

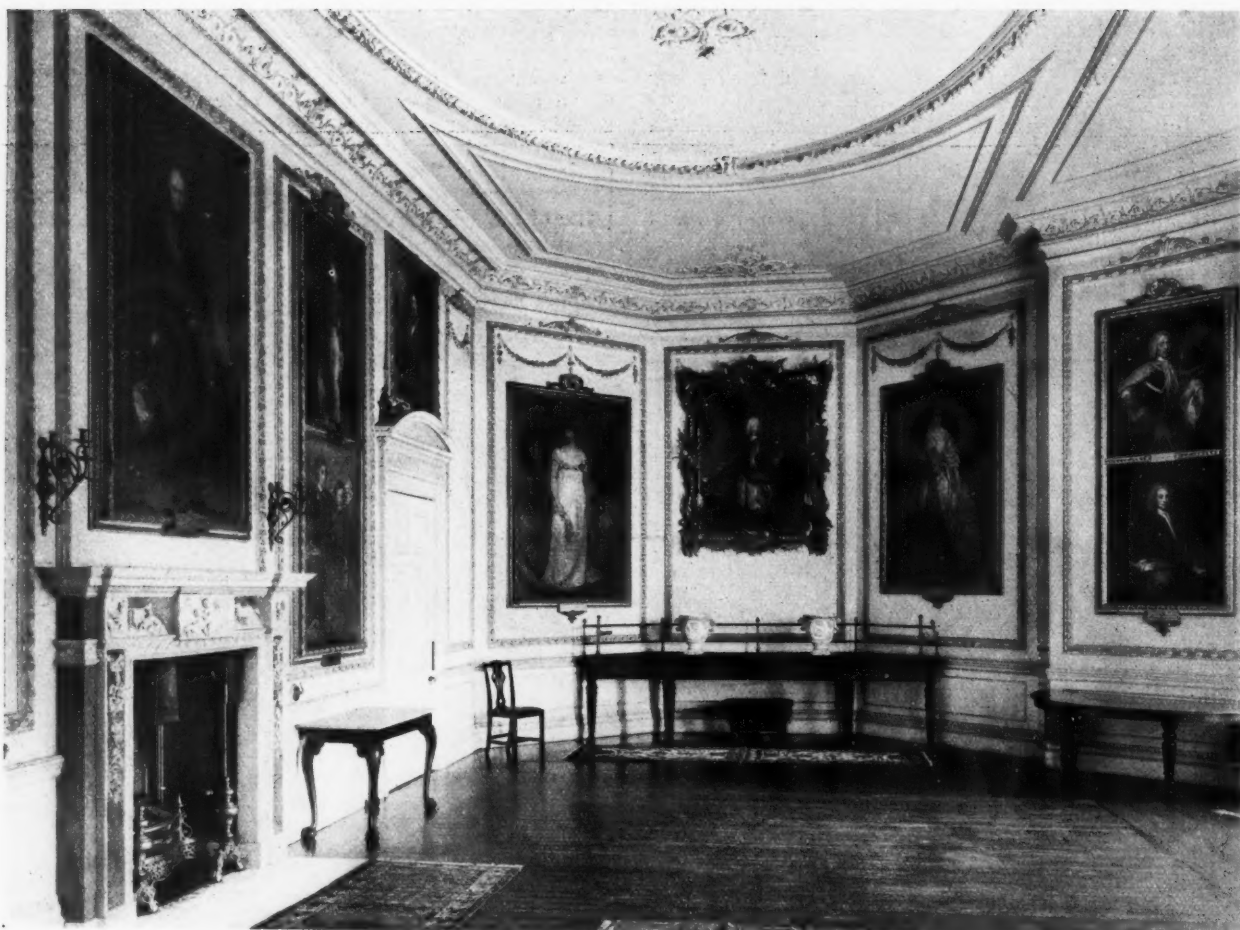


THE PIETER DE HOOCH PICTURE "THE COURTYARD OF A WINE SHOP."

Hogarth's satirical plates, was disapproved of by Burlington himself. Ware distinctly states that it was built during his absence in Italy, but that the Earl suffered it to remain "because he had given a proof of his own taste at Chiswick."

However much the famous Earl architect was aided by clever professionals like Leoni, Kent, Ware, Morris and Flitcroft it seems undeniable that he had, through his enthusiastic studies in the homeland of Palladio, acquired a certain distinction of personal taste, which justified Pope

of his school as a Scamozzi dreaming of a "Universal Architecture" based on Palladianism, and ignorant that the whole fabric was already undermined and that a new school was already entering into possession of the field. If Ware could have read the private journal of James Adam's visit to Vicenza in 1763 with its unlimited arraignment of Palladian masterpieces, he must have trembled for the sanity of its author. Like Quin on seeing Garrick, he could only have exclaimed, "if this young man is right we are all wrong."



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THE LARGE DINING-ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright.

THE ENTRY HALL.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



or, like the indignant painter of the old school, at the sight of Reynolds' first portraits, who protested afresh his faith in Kneller as the painter, renewed once more his pious devotion to Palladio as the architect.

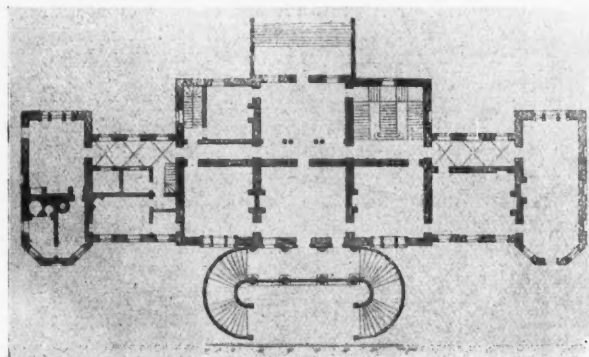
Fate has not been very kind to Ware, his great town house has been seriously altered, and this important example of his work in the country, Wrotham Park, has undergone various transformations. We see by "Vitruvius Britannicus" (Vol. V, 1771) that already the plan had been revised. Wolfe re-draws the Plan and Elevation no doubt from Ware's book, but his modifications look like the result of a visit to the house, and deserve attention. It is perfectly clear that the original kitchen in the north pavilion was on the principal floor, with a scullery and baking ovens annexed, below which was the wash-house, or private laundry. This excellent disposition though unusual can be established by a quotation from Ware's book. He says:

In this we shall direct him (the young architect) to lodge a part of the servants at a distance from the house and a part within it. The upper servants are most wanted about the persons of the master and lady, and these we shall place in a basement story under the parlour floor; which is here intended as the principal apartment. On the other hand, the kitchen is hot, and the sculleries are offensive, and the servants' hall is noisy; these, therefore we shall place in one of the wings. This is the conduct of reason; the house-keeper, the clerk of the kitchen, and the other domestics of like rank, will thus be separated from the rabble of the Kitchen.

In Wolfe's re-drawn plan, however, an annexe is clearly indicated as "kitchen," which would appear to clearly be some addition made by George Byng, the Admiral's nephew who succeeded. We see also that the two internal closets or servants' bedrooms have been replaced by a new State Bedroom with an alcove, as still existing. The house thus modified remained intact as late as 1810, when extensive additions were obtained by raising both the wings by a new story. In the "Beauties of England and Wales, 1816" (J. Norris Brewer, Vol. X, Part IV, London, 1816) there is a view of the house, the plate being dated 1805, which shows the house as Ware designed it. The text, however, says: "Mr. Byng has lately augmented the commodiousness of his residence by raising the two wings," and adds that the "effect will be greatly heightened if the building be covered with stucca according to a design at present entertained." A particularly valuable piece of information is that "the material is brick with stone portico and dressings," showing that the view in Brewer's book was already out of date. That the original brick used by Ware was red is known from later repairs. The least happy result of an increase in the internal convenience of the house has been the advancement of the central attic, which now rather overpowers the portico.

There is an excellent model in the house, apparently made later than this period, in which the two wings are shown as raised, but the original central attic is shown as in Ware's design. Further additions were made (about 1854) when the two wings on the east front were advanced some 16ft., and a large bow was added on the south, to the great internal advantage of the State Dining-room. A linking screen of columns was introduced to connect centre and wings, and perhaps the present entrance portico of the same order was then added.

Ware's detail was fairly followed so that some continuity was maintained. Unfortunately two flat bay windows have been added on the west in place of the original Venetian windows. This type of window was the invention of Palladio, and Ware dwells on the subject of their design. He gives four types in his book, and at Wrotham he used two of them. On the east they are grouped under an arch, type number one, but on the west they followed his second type. Of Venetian windows the author writes: "We have led the student now through the whole consideration of plain



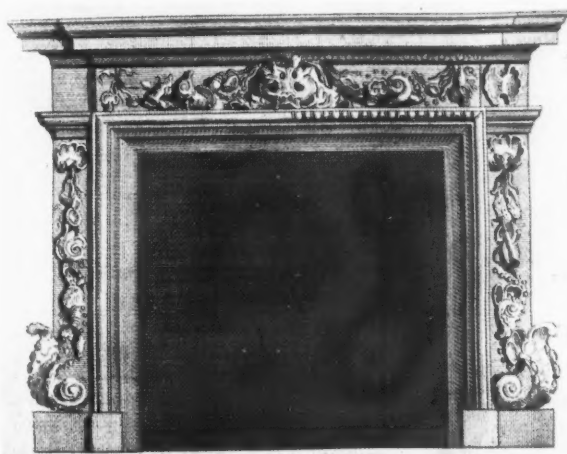
PLAN OF PRINCIPAL STORY, WROTHAM PARK, FROM WARE'S BOOK.



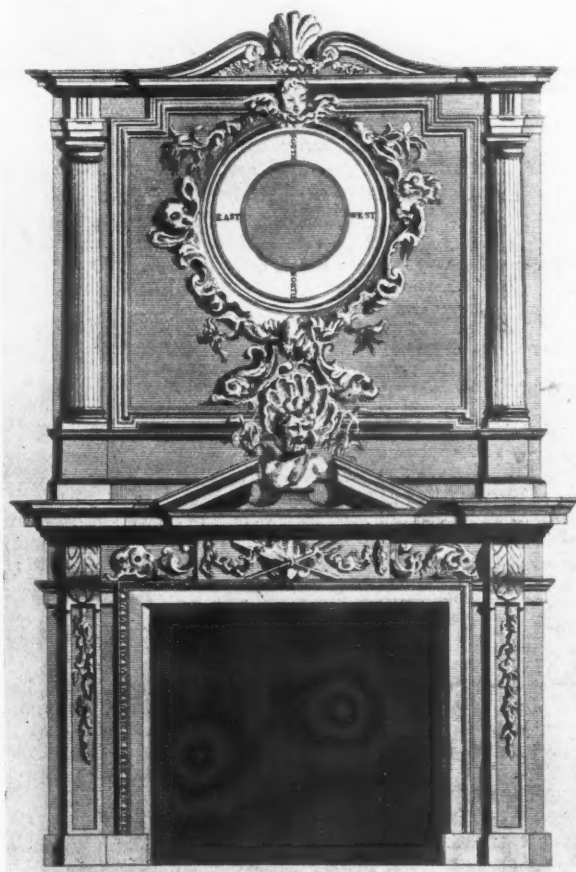
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A PARLOUR CHIMNEYPIECE.

C.L.



A MARINE CHIMNEYPIECE FOR ADMIRAL BYNG



A WIND DIAL CHIMNEYPIECE FOR ADMIRAL BYNG'S TOWN HOUSE.

Ware's Designs.



ABEL GRIMMER: "AN INTERIOR."

windows: from the simplest and cheapest to the richest and most expensive: and we are from these to advance to the *Venetian*, a kind calculated for show, very pompous in their nature, and when executed with judgement of extreme elegance."

Ware was by no means of the type of indifferent Georgian architect who disregarded the interior, and his views are historically interesting, as he was already affected by the approaching change of taste. Specifying three modes in use for the treatment of the internal walls—panelling, hangings, and stucco work, he says:

Paper has in great measure taken the place of sculpture upon this occasion, and the hand of art is banished from a part of the house in which it used to display itself very happily: but we flatter ourselves that a just representation of the superior excellence of the other will restore to the sculptor this proper, and once great part of his province.

Of the three kinds we have named, the grandest is that in stucco, the neatest that in wainscot, and the most gaudy that in hangings.

It is, however, when we come to the mantelpieces designed for Admiral Byng that the author becomes most characteristic, and *à propos* of the design of a marine chimney-piece, he tells us:

The first direction we shall give the young architect on this head, is to review the variety of Nature, and take his choice among them. Let him not limit his fancy by the small number that have been used by others, there are not only more but better . . . this path rightly followed, there will be a source of beauty and variety opened that no practice can exhaust; and from such stores, not on the imitation of the works of others, we would have the architect go upon the design of this chimney.

In the main outline there are to be the usual festoons and a central tablet, as used by Inigo Jones

Nepune's head might answer in this place, or that of a sea-nymph, but the first would be too coarse for the work, and the latter might, perhaps be misundersood. It will therefore be most proper to place there the head of some large fish, not of the shark because the armour of its mouth, naturally creates terror; but that of some other inoffensive kind, the whale, or the figure heralds give of the dolphin.

The fish, in fact, like Bottom's lion, "is to roar you as gentle as any sucking dove." The author thoughtfully assures us that "these will not fail to please every eye, but if neither of these suit the taste of the architect he may give a figure from fancy, only taking care that it resemble so much a fish's head, that every eye may distinguish that it is designed for one."

The festoons may be diversified with the figures of shells, and the pearl oyster being introduced amongst the rest may scatter over the edge its glittering treasures. Upon the plinth may rest a large conch, turning up its wide and open mouth, as if gaping for the dropping festoons, loaded with smaller shells and scattered pearls.

The reader must judge for himself the adequacy of the author's interpretation of this marine invention from his own engraving here reproduced. The other design for the parlour of the dining-room has two dolphins with tails intertwined on the central pedimental tablet; while the uprights are strangely decorated with lions' heads resting on term-like bodies, which are separated below into legs with claw feet. Over the heads of the lions on the frieze are vases. Scallop shells with husk drops complete this odd assortment of imagery. The remaining design is that of a chimney-piece and wind dial.

When a thing of this kind is proposed the first business of the designer is to remember that every room is not fit for it. A wind dial in a dining room would be an odd kind of ornament: and much more improper would be to place it in a more elegant apartment. The study of a sea officer, or other curious person, or the breakfasting room of a sportsman, are the proper places. Probably therefore it was for the front parlour of Admiral Byng's house in Berkeley Square that this invention was executed.

It is not clear where the stables at Wrotham were situated in Ware's time. If newly built, they may have been at a greater distance from the house, or some older buildings may have been adapted, and used, for the purpose. The present interesting building, a half circle on plan, has a very pleasant central pediment feature, but it is fairly clear that the work is of the 1810 period. The buildings are of stock brick, stone, and wood, while we know that red brick was used for the original house. That it was contemplated to stucco the house in 1816 is clear by the account already quoted. No doubt this was done in lime stucco, which has been subsequently redone in grey cement, and the stonework was perhaps at the same time yellow-washed, though most of this has been subsequently removed, greatly to the advantage of the masonry. On garden lay-out Ware's views are not very distinct; apparently from association with Kent he had fallen a victim to naturalism, and his book contains some confused remarks on Chinese gardens, probably derived from a recent knowledge of Sir William Chambers' early, indiscreet essays in that style.



Wrotham Park as a country home possesses the tranquillity that we associate with the idea of the eighteenth century. In point of fact, it harks back to the settled period of Walpole's long premiership; it is of the age that created Houghton and Holkham, rather than of the new transitional epoch that was opening while its walls were actually rising. Though within twelve miles of the centre of the Metropolis, Wrotham still retains a characteristic repose in harmony with the traditions of its ordered classic Art.

ARTHUR T. BOLTON.

### THE COLLECTION OF PICTURES AT WROTHAM PARK

THE collection of pictures at Wrotham, although not a very large one, is yet of considerable interest; and as it is but very little known, the gratitude of all interested in the study of the Old Masters is due to Lord Strafford for having kindly consented to the reproduction of some of the most noteworthy examples in these pages.

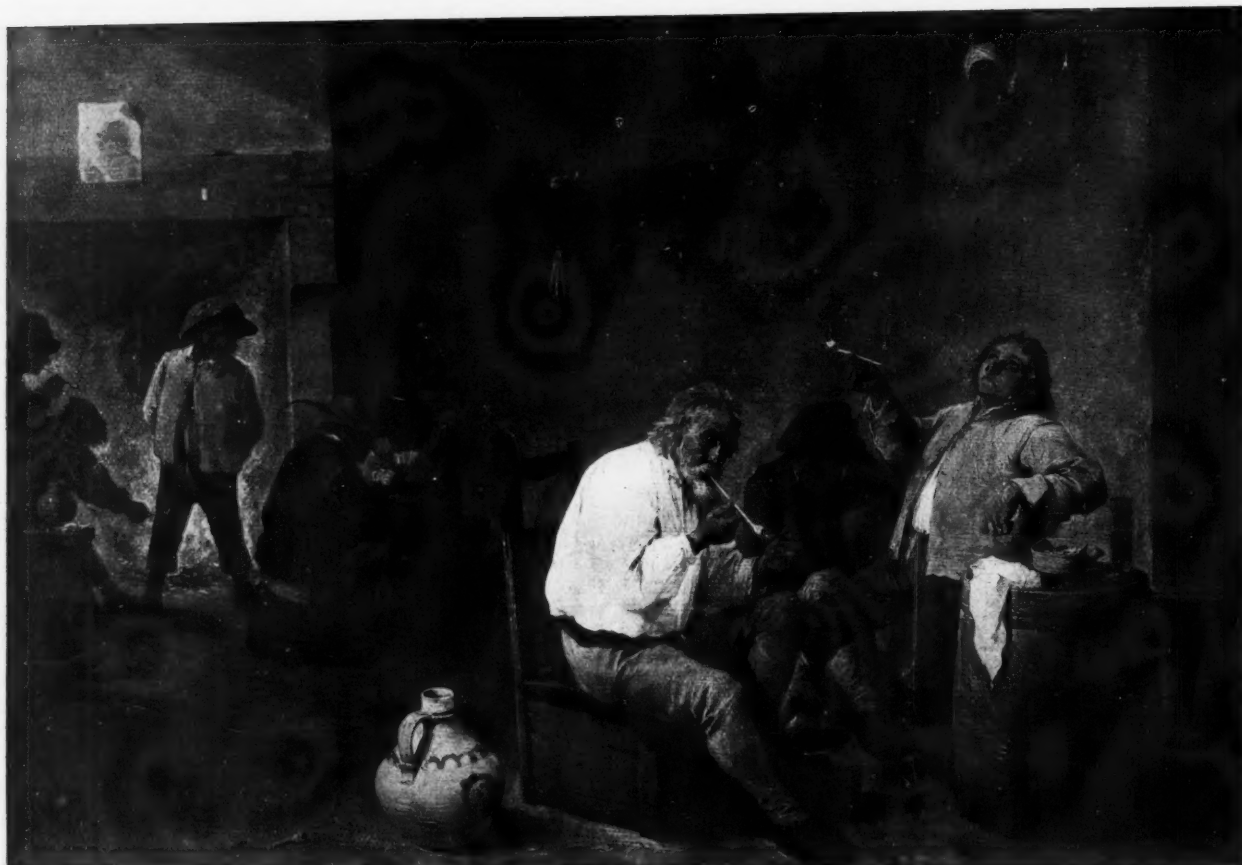
Not very much is known about the history of the collection, but it was probably in its main parts formed at the beginning of the last century; and a complete record of it, as at present existing, is to be found in the pages of the fourth volume of Waagen's "Treasures of Art in Great Britain" (1857). The schools most fully represented in the collection are the Italian, the Dutch and Flemish. As is generally the case with collections dating from the same period as the one at Wrotham, the "Primitives," which since have become among the most eagerly competed for prizes of the collector, are entirely absent: the representation of the Italian school begins with the Renaissance at its full maturity, and has its chief strength in the works of the masters of the seventeenth century—a period in the history of Italian art which, having previously come in for an exaggerated measure of praise and interest, has since been even more unjustly decried and neglected, although there is now a welcome and increasing number of signs of a renewed appreciative interest in it. Among the works of the Cinquecento attention is attracted by a large composition representing the Holy Family attended by various saints, in

a landscape—a "Sacra Conversazione" of the decoratively effective and characteristically Venetian type, first evolved by Palma Vecchio, although the authorship of the present example must doubtless be associated with the name of Palma's talented pupil and follower, Bonifazio dei Pitati. A very striking specimen of the art of a master whose productions are by no means frequently to be met with is seen in the "Portrait of a Man" by Parmigianino—a work that shows well the artist's consummate mastery of elegance and harmony of design and his power of vitality of expression. Here is most certainly again the case of an artist most highly thought of for centuries, yet the current estimate of whose art is a very unfair one. Still, Parmigianino's day will no doubt come again: the artist upon whose system of design Greco very largely built his can be sure not to suffer a permanent eclipse.

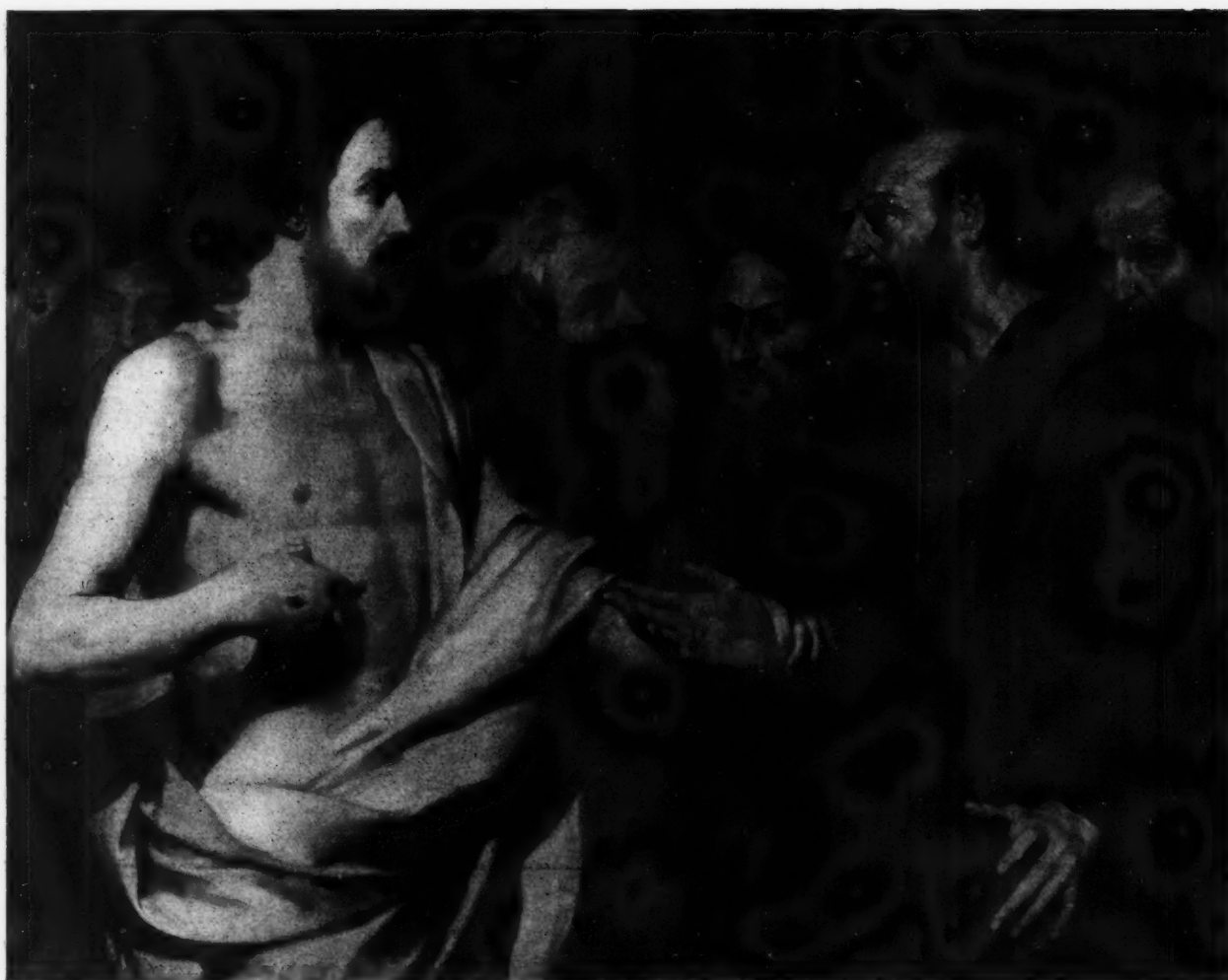
Among the later Italian pictures, a very noteworthy group is formed by three examples of that highly interesting, but hitherto far from sufficiently studied, Roman landscape school of the early seventeenth century—one by Paul Brill, another by Annibale Carracci, and the third and finest of all by Domenichino. Historically, this school supplies the link between the work of the great sixteenth century Venetians who took such a keen interest in landscape—Titian, Tintoret and others—and the great French landscape school of the seventeenth century—Poussin, Caspard, Claude—with an amalgamation, through the Fleming Paul Brill, of the efforts in the direction of landscape painting which had been made all through the sixteenth century in the countries north of the Alps. Æsthetically, too, many of the works of this school can claim very high rank. In the grandeur and simplicity which govern their distribution of lines and masses there is something which reminds one of the noble and austere gravity of Tasso's verse. Domenichino certainly was never more inspired—and he was truly so—than when in some of his landscapes he interpreted the heroic beauty of the scenery of the Tiber valley above Rome—as witness this picture at Wrotham, the landscape with Erminia and the Shepherds in Captain E. G. Spencer-Churchill's collection at Northwick Park, and above all, the incomparable landscape with St. John baptizing in the collection of Sir Frederick Cook at Doughty House, Richmond. What this art led up to can



DOMENICHINO: "LANDSCAPE WITH HIGH, ROCKY HILL."



D. TENIERS: "INTERIOR OF A VILLAGE ALE-HOUSE."



"INCREDULITY OF ST. THOMAS." ATTRIBUTED TO CARAVAGGIO.



be seen at Wrotham in a picture [where St. Matthew, writing his gospel among ruins, is seen in the foreground of a view of the Tiber valley as seen from the Acqua Acetosa—a replica or excellent early copy of one of the finest Poussin landscapes in the world, which, having been admired for centuries in the Palazzo Sciarra in Rome, about a generation ago migrated to the museum at Berlin.

The Spanish school is represented at Wrotham by a few pictures only. The name of Velazquez is traditionally connected with a view of a château in a garden; but with our present standards it can only be held to be the work of some master of the school of Madrid among the following of Velazquez. Murillo is another of our grandmasters' favourites, who of late years has suffered a considerable diminution of prestige; and whether in his case a revulsion of attitude, such as is now taking place over the late Italians, will ever occur seems doubtful, but he is certainly seen to full advantage in the two pictures by him at Wrotham: one, a full length of St. Joseph, with the Infant Christ walking beside him; and the other a "Rest on the Flight into Egypt," an idyllic composition after the manner of the Venetian school of the sixteenth century. The finest Spanish picture at Wrotham is doubtless a composition of some half length figures representing the "Incredulity of St. Thomas," a work traditionally assigned to Caravaggio, but which, as was already recognised by Waagen, in reality displays all the characteristics of style of one of Caravaggio's most original and gifted followers, namely, Ribera—the breadth and vigour of his handling, no less than the keenness and intensity of his typically Spanish, realistic expressiveness.

Turning now to the schools of the North we come to the picture which, all things considered, must, no doubt, be accounted the gem of the collection, "The Courtyard of a Wine House," by Pieter de Hooch. The motive of the picture is one of the two favourite ones of the master, the other one being, as is well known, the actual interior of a room; and the way in which de Hooch has here carried out his study of the play of light on the red and white brick walls of the buildings, on the variegated diaper of yard pavement and in the receding sequence of sunlit and shady spaces must unquestionably be regarded as one of his greatest achievements. Indeed, I know of no picture of his superior to this one in the delicacy and silvery luminosity of tone; and if one were to single out any particular passage in the picture as especially admirable, it would, I think, have to be the treatment of the light and shade of the corridor leading from the courtyard to the canal outside. Both the woman holding the glass of wine and the little girl seated on the threshold of the passage are familiar models of the artist. The picture is signed with the artist's initials and dated 1658, thus belonging to a comparatively early stage of his career.

The other Netherlandish pictures at Wrotham are none of them of an excellence to be compared with that of the Pieter de Hooch; but they include several characteristic specimens of well known masters, the most important of them being perhaps an interior of a village ale-house by Teniers, of exceptional breadth of handling and delicacy of tone. A document of considerable interest to art historians—and also to students of costume—is an interior of a saloon, with some figures in conversation, and a couple dancing to the music of viol and lute, signed "Abel Grimmer fecit 1608," a work of a very little known Antwerp master whose pictures are exceedingly scarce, only the galleries at Antwerp, Brussels and Budapest possessing authenticated examples by him in addition to the picture at Wrotham.



MURILLO: "REST ON THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT"



THE PARMIGIANINO "PORTRAIT OF A MAN."

Among the works of the English school, one deserving to be singled out for special mention is a full length portrait of Harriet, wife of George Byng, M.P., by Sir Thomas Lawrence. It is free from the more persistent

conventionalisms of Lawrence and painted with all the skill and ease of that brilliant executant—all in all a very attractive presentment of what was, no doubt, a very attractive woman.

TANCRED BORENIUS.

## COMMEMORATION

"All-souls' . . ." but there has never been  
So great a press as now;  
"All-souls' . . ." but hosts have died between  
That day and this: O Thou  
To Whom a myriad newer prayers  
Ascend, is mine engulfed in theirs?

Dost Thou remember one who lies  
Deep under three years' dead?  
Is he yet precious in Thine eyes  
As spirits latelier fled?  
All-souls' is still one soul to me:  
O is he dear—as dear to Thee?

V. H. F.

# THE ESTATE MARKET

FUTURE OF AUCTIONS IN LONDON.

POSSESSION of the existing Mart in Tokenhouse Yard has to be given to the Bank of England at Christmas, and the question of a place for the holding of auctions is exercising the minds of auctioneers very seriously. Invitations to nearly a thousand firms were issued to attend a general meeting at the offices of the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute a few days ago, and there was a good response. A businesslike discussion of the question resulted in the appointment of a committee to consider and report to another general meeting to be convened shortly. Mr. W. H. Wells (Messrs. Chesterton and Sons) presided, and the speakers included Mr. B. I. Anson Breach (Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co.), Mr. J. Sagram Richardson (Messrs. Debenham, Tewson and Chinnocks), Mr. Charles Osenton, Mr. Owen Wallis (Messrs. Harrods, Ltd.), Mr. Mordaunt Rogers (Messrs. Rogers, Chapman and Thomas), Sir Howard Frank (Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley), and Sir James Boyton, M.P. (Messrs. Elliott, Son and Boyton).

Two or three main lines of action were suggested. First, opinion was fairly unanimous that a City centre for sales must be maintained; secondly, that certain classes of property, particularly town houses and country properties, might with advantage be offered in a West End sale room, if one could be opened; and, thirdly, that an effort ought to be made to provide sale rooms in connection with the Auctioneers' Institute. It was felt that the directors of the present Mart had only done their duty by the shareholders, seeing how unremunerative the concern had been for the last four or five years, and how good an offer the Bank of England had made for the premises, some £33 a square foot for the site. The general view seemed to be that if a mart could be established in the Kingsway district it would meet the requirements alike of City and West End firms, and that the prospects of a revival of business are bright enough to warrant the display of enterprise in that direction. Sir Howard Frank offered to allow any firm finding a difficulty in obtaining accommodation for auctions the free use of the Hanover Square rooms, and his offer was highly appreciated.

The distinction of holding the last sale at Tokenhouse Yard of a great London estate has fallen to Messrs. Trollope, who, on Tuesday, jointly with Messrs. Harrods (Ltd.), submitted a large area in Knightsbridge, including the reversion to Trevor Square, numerous town houses, and a freehold ground rent of £2,000 a year. The investment as a whole was bought in at £110,000. The sale was conducted by Mr. E. N. Shackleton, and among those present was Sir Woodman Burbidge.

The sale of the South Marston estate, Wiltshire, took place at Swindon on the 18th inst. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, in conjunction with Mr. J. A. Y. Matthews, offered this estate of 709 acres, the property of the late Miss B. H. All lots were sold for £38,097, averaging £55 per acre. Nightingale Farm, South Marston, fifty-six acres, also realised £2,804.

Beamhurst Hall, three miles from Uttoxeter, is to be submitted in that town next Wednesday by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The 206 acres have been divided into fifteen lots, fishing rights in the Tean, together with 16 acres, accompanying the Hall. The West Suffolk estate, Chadacre Hall, 2,305 acres, will be dealt with at Bury St. Edmunds on December 4th.

Messrs. Vernon and Son, at Aylesbury, next Wednesday, are selling Upper Blackgrove Farm of 200 acres, some of the best grazing land in the county. On the same day, also at Aylesbury, Mr. Joseph Sower is to offer property belonging to the Earl of Buckinghamshire, including land in Hughenden. Radwell Bury Farm is the only lot remaining over from the recent sale of Hert's farms by Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis and Co., who are to sell six Suffolk farms, seven miles from Sawmarket, at Ipswich on Tuesday next, land formerly in the hands of the Brewsters of Beccles and Wrentham.

Messrs. R. M. English and Son, at York, on Thursday next, will offer 1,300 acres of the Holme Hall estate, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor, East Yorkshire. Over 600 acres in the West Riding are to come under the hammer of Messrs. Collins and Collins at Skipton on December 11th by order of the trustees of Clara, Lady Vincent. Trout fishing rights in the Skirfa, a tributary of the Wharfe, are included. Outlying portions of the Whaddon Hall estate,

Winslow, five miles from Bletchley, are to be sold in that town on December 19th. There are fifteen or sixteen farms, the total area being about 2,584 acres, with good houses and buildings. To-day (Saturday), at Appleby, Burra House and 92 acres will be submitted by Messrs. Thornborrow and Co.

Just over 500 acres in and around M. I. Port and S. Salbridge await offers at Sherborne next Thursday through Messrs. Daniel Smith, Oakley and Garrard. The freeholds form part of the Ven estate. In the same town, on December 12th, Messrs. Norbury Smith and Co. will sell the Holnest estate, 2,800 acres, with the mansion, which stands in a finely timbered park of 300 acres. The firm has fixed next Friday and Saturday for the sale at Norwich of Costessey Hall and nearly 3,130 acres on the outskirts of that city.

Coombe, on the Cotswolds, 845 acres, will be offered at Cirencester on December 2nd by Messrs. Pearce, Pope and Sons jointly with Messrs. Beadel, Wood and Co. Other sales arranged for an early date include Norton Place in North Lincolnshire, 3,904 acres, of which 150 acres are woodlands. The Adams mansion and 500 acres will be sold separately if the estate does not find a buyer in its entirety. Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. are the agents.

Lympe Castle, Hythe, is again in the market, as already announced in these columns, in Messrs. Tresidder and Co.'s hands, and the Countess of Warwick's sale of the Easton estate and other properties by Messrs. Alfred Savill and Sons has also been mentioned. The Essex property extends to 5,000 acres.

Town houses about to be sold include, on Monday next, one in Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood, by Messrs. Maple and Co.; and No. 23, Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, and No. 24, Hyde Park Square by Messrs. Elliott, Son and Boyton. On that day also Messrs. Alex. H. Turner and Co. are offering the freehold near Kensington Gardens, No. 27, Kensington Court, a modern house splendidly fitted, with panelled oak entrance hall, and a boudoir decorated in Louis XV style. On the following day, on the premises, when selling the contents of the residence, Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. will offer the long lease of No. 18, Hyde Park Place, facing south, with views of the Park. The house was rebuilt a few years ago. Next Tuesday, too, Mr. William Willett will invite offers for No. 53, Cadogan Gardens, by order of Lord Carnock, and other houses in Sloane Gardens and Egerton Place. A freehold in Holland Villas Road, Kensington, with good gardens, is in Messrs. Hampton and Sons' hands on Tuesday, when they will also sell 8 acres on the borders of Hampstead Heath. Other Hampstead properties in the market include freeholds in Netherhall Gardens and Maresfield Gardens next Monday by Messrs. Ellis and Co.; and Greenaway House, Frogna, designed by the late Mr. Norman Shaw, R.A., which Messrs. Weatherall and Green will offer at the Mart on December 10th.

A Hove freehold in Queen's Gardens, on the sea front, will be sold on Thursday, by Messrs. Jenner and Dill, with possession. The title to Osborne Cottage, East Cowes, commences as to part thereof, with the conveyance, dated June 24th, 1913, from H.R.H. Princess Beatrice to Sir Richard Burbidge. The freehold will be offered at the Mart on Tuesday next, by Messrs. Hampton and Sons and Messrs. Marvins.

The Hannaford Bohun Estate, 1,050 acres, between the Great Western Railway and the Upavon aerodrome, at Pewsey, has been sold by Messrs. Edwin Fear and Walker. Every lot on the Chalvington Manor Estate changed hands at Lewes, at the auction by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. and Messrs. T. Bannister and Co., the total amounting to £31,683. Mr. Gordon Saunders conducted the sale. About £73,000 was realised at Warrington at Messrs. Osborn and Mercer's auction of property on the Milner estates, between that town and Northwich.

A number of pleasantly situated country houses have changed hands by private treaty, through Messrs. Harrods (Ltd.), among them being Brasted House, Sevenoaks, with 11 acres; Heathery Edge, Ferndown, Dorset, 3 acres; Hamptons at Sawbridgeworth, Stoneywood, and 2½ acres at Kenley, Broad Windsor Vicarage, and 7 acres at Beauminster, Dorset, and Gouvenor with 11 acres, at Wadebridge, in the Cornish Riviera.

ARBITER.



# CORRESPONDENCE

## THE WINCHESTER WAR MEMORIAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I entirely agree with every word of the letter in your columns of November 16th signed "S." In view of the diversity of opinion it is desirable that as many Wykehamists as possible should attend the meeting at Lincoln's Inn Hall on December 2nd at 3 p.m. and hear all there is to be said on both sides.—AN OLD WYKEHAMIST.

## VILLAGE WAR MEMORIALS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It is most difficult to say what is the best form a village memorial should take. The only traditional form that naturally occurs to one is the village cross which was usually in the churchyard, and I agree with your correspondent "W. B." that this is the most fitting place in which to commemorate the men of the parish who have fallen. Unfortunately in most villages the church stands for sectarianism to so many, and has ceased to influence village life sufficiently to make such a memorial acceptable. The old village churchyard is generally the most attractive spot in the village, and any conspicuous addition dedicated as a memorial should be most carefully considered. It is not a question of cost so much as of simplicity of design and suitability of material to accord with the church. It is so easy to be misled by pretty drawings that do not express the quality of detail and design. An effort should be made to get a designer who will get in touch with local masons and materials, who will be ready to expend time and thought in seeing that the work is properly carried out on the spot. I am inclined to think a memorial of a more utilitarian type will be more popular. There are comparatively few villages that have a well kept green where the children can play in safety. Even those that exist have become untidy and meaningless as a centre of social life in the village. To dedicate a small space and keep it permanently beautiful would be a very worthy memorial. To suggest a pavilion or a band-stand as part of such a scheme recalls all the dreadful forms such buildings have so often taken. A simpler erection which could be used for the children in wet weather, or for village sports is most desirable. On such a building or in an open cloister, the names of those who have fallen might be inscribed. No memorial of this kind would be permanently satisfactory unless a sufficient sum is subscribed to be invested for the proper upkeep of the building and the ground. Another attractive memorial is the village club, but this has not so far been a very popular adjunct to the village owing again to sectarian strife. A well equipped club with a really good library run by an elected committee of the villagers themselves should be an ideal memorial. There is a society already existing in order to assist any such project. COUNTRY LIFE has done such wonderful service in improving the architectural character of all country building that its advice as to the best way to carry out any such scheme might well be sought. It will be disastrous if such a great period in our history is not productive of better memorials than the nineteenth century produced in so many of our villages. How many there are that possess Victorian clock towers, and drinking fountains that they would give a good deal to be rid of, but how difficult it is to dispose of an ill-considered memorial!—P. MORLEY HORDER.

## NOTABLE TREES AND THE WAR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In the recent enormous deforestation that has of necessity been undertaken for obtaining timber for war purposes, no doubt many fine trees, notable either for their size or other peculiarities, have succumbed to the axe, adding their share of utility, but whose loss is to be regretted. However, it is to be hoped some few have survived. In the *Times* this autumn, mention is made by Mr. James of how the Canadian Forestry Corps in France, beyond the Somme, came across a magnificent specimen of the oak, believed to be the finest in France, which they decided should be spared; they thus left it standing. It measured 42 ins. in diameter, and no branch below 30 ft. from the ground. In the retreat of March last the tree came into the hands of the Hun, who out of sheer wantonness cut it down, leaving it where it fell, in spite of its fine amount of timber! I call to mind another interesting tree in Boldrewood, New Forest, which is still standing, having survived the timber felling there. It is a twin oak and beech, apparently as one tree, springing from the acorn and nut in a joint bole from the ground, finally dividing into two large trunks. The whole tree is of considerable size and probably about seventy years old. When I looked for it after the woodmen had been some months at work, I discovered it surrounded by huts of the Portuguese Foresters, who used it to hang articles from, but otherwise undamaged. On speaking to them of its curious nature they had not noticed this, but became deeply interested.—R. F. H. CREWE.

## REAPING AS IMPORTANT AS PLOUGHING.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—With reference to your interesting articles on agriculture, there is one feature which neither your contributors nor the contributors to other papers appear to have touched upon. I refer to the gathering in of the harvest. The various Agricultural Committees have been very thorough in getting the land ploughed up, but apparently they have not troubled about reaping where they have sown. A large portion of this year's harvest was lost through there not being sufficient labour to gather it in and through there being nobody to see that it was gathered in. I know that the farmers were asked to apply for labour, and did so in many cases, getting in response to their applications good, bad and indifferent labour, but in a large number of cases they did not apply, and so for want of supervision large quantities of their crops were wasted. An old Somerset or Devon farmer farming perhaps 100 acres to 200 acres of poorish land, when his sons or labourers are taken for Service makes shift as best he can with his daughter or wife to get in what he can, or waits until Farmer Jim has finished, when he may get a hired man in turn,

trusting also that the fine weather may last another fortnight or three weeks. It does not do this generally. It did not this year, with the result that the crop is wasted. It is so easy for educated people to put in an application, but Farmer Jim will not do this, and if the Agricultural Committees and their representatives used one-fifth of the energy to see that the crops were gathered in that they used in seeing the lands ploughed up, we should get a very much larger store of food to carry on with.—SOMERSETSHIRE.

## MAKERS' SIGNATURES ON OLD ENGLISH FURNITURE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I was very interested in the letter from Mr. Clifford Smith which appeared in COUNTRY LIFE on October 25 and I think it is well worth trying to trace some of the less known furniture makers. There must be many pieces of old furniture still bearing the labels and marks of their makers, and perhaps if you call attention to the subject you may obtain a good many reports—for the moment I can only find one maker, and this is stamped along the inside top edge of a very beautiful little oval Sheraton tea-caddy, most daintily inlaid with various coloured woods. It is marked "Gillow, Lancaster."—THOS. SUTTON.

## A LEGEND OF THE HOHENZOLLERNS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The following extract from Friend's "Flowers and Flower Lore" may be of interest at the present time (Introduction, p. 9, edition 1883): "It is said that one of the great treasures in the Hohenzollern Museum at Berlin is a fragment of wood from an ancient pear-tree at the foot of the Unsterberg, near Salzburg, which, according to tradition, would blossom and bear so long as the German Empire flourished, but would die with the fall of the Imperial power. In 1806, when the Empire was dissolved and the Confederation of the Rhine formed, the tree withered away, and the poet Chamisso alluded to the old legend in one of his poems. The tree remained lifeless for over sixty years, but in 1871, after the establishment of the new German Empire, the old trunk suddenly put forth branches, blossomed, and bore fruit."—HARRY SIBBALD.

## "PROCESSION OF THE MONTHS."

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—A few weeks ago some correspondence took place in this column under the heading of "A Rhyme of the Months," which seemed to arouse a good deal of interest. Some years ago, in an artistic little calendar, I came across the following lines under the heading of "The Procession of the Months." They are remarkable alike for their truthfulness and beauty, and it would be interesting to know their authorship. Upon enquiry at the time, even the publishers of the calendar themselves did not know. Perhaps some reader can give enlightenment?

"First January, charged with hope and fear,  
Flings open wide the portals of the year;  
Then February comes with storm and rain;  
Whilst boisterous March goes shouting down the plain;  
And then sweet April, smiling through her tears,  
Shakes raindrops from her hair and disappears;  
May comes in singing, and, still singing, goes;  
Whilst June is glad with nightingale and rose;  
July grows languid with the summer's heat,  
And sits beside the stream, and bathes her feet;  
Whilst sultry August sees her harvests grow  
And ripen till the sickle lays them low;  
September follows laden with a hoard  
Of fruits to brighten all the autumn's board;  
October's torch, when the cold makes its claim,  
Touches the fields and sets the woods aflame;  
Then comes November, frosty lance in hand,  
And scatters his white mists about the land;  
White-cloaked December passes, and the door  
Closes upon those months for evermore."

JAMES J. CASH.

## SOME NOTES ON THE CUCKOO.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The extremely interesting article by Mr. Edgar Chance in your issue of Oct. 26th prompts me to send you what I trust he may regard as a small contribution to the subject he discusses. I have little experience of cuckoo's eggs, having found but two. These were found in different years, the locations of the nests being a half-mile apart. Both nests were those of hedgesparrows; both were under daily observation over the period during which the hedgesparrows were laying. In each case an egg was deposited daily, but on the fifth day the clutch in the nest remained incomplete; the fifth egg lay broken on the ground. On the sixth day a cuckoo's egg was found in each nest. The two eggs were identical, being large, round white eggs with small grey and black spots. There seems little doubt that the cuckoo had visited the hedgesparrow's nest and thrown out a single egg at a preliminary visit, depositing her own egg at a subsequent visit, probably a day later. There is equally little doubt, therefore, in the case of both these nests, that they were under the close observation of the cuckoo or cuckoos before the strange eggs were deposited. It is possible that the same cuckoo was responsible. The habit of throwing out an egg at an early visit may therefore have been the peculiar habit of a particular bird. I send you these details, however, chiefly to confirm Mr. Chance's view, that the cuckoo has the nest under surveillance for some while before depositing her egg.—G. LEWIS.

## TEAL MARKED IN RUSSIAN LAPLAND RECOVERED IN ITALY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In addition to the teal (*Anas. c. crecca* or *Querquedula crecca*) marked in Finland and recovered in Spain, which I recorded in *COUNTRY LIFE*, August 18th, another teal marked with a Helsingfors ring has performed a long journey. It was marked as a juvenile with ring No. 410, by J. Forsius, on June 12th, 1913, at Loitsomajärvi, east of Nuortti, in Russian Lapland, and recovered at Vallaza, near Bologna, in North Italy, early in 1914, having travelled due south across Europe 2,900 kilometres from where it was hatched.

—H. W. ROBINSON.

## AN OLD PACK-HORSE BRIDGE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In the heart of Dovedale the river is spanned by an ancient pack-horse bridge just wide enough to permit of the passage of a horse with its



VIATOR'S BRIDGE IN DOVEDALE.

load. In the olden time the hills and dales of Derbyshire were scored with pack-horse trails, many of which exist to this day, notably that between Hayfield and Edale, which crosses the flank of the High Peak. Roads as we know them to-day were few and far between, and where they existed were kept in a deplorable condition. Most of the commercial traffic passed along the pack-horse trails, and long strings of horses were then to be seen threading their sinuous way over hill and dale. To that period we owe the many hostelries which bear the sign of "The Pack-Horse." The bridge shown in the illustration is identified as the "Viator's Bridge" of the fly-fishing part of "The Complete Angler," by Charles Cotton; and over the hill, at Alstonefield Church, may be seen the carved oaken pew of the Cotton family. Every disciple of Izaak Walton feels a thrill as he gazes upon this old bridge for the first time. It is none the less interesting to roadfarers, who see in it a relic of the dim and distant past when railways and motor-driven vehicles were undreamt of.—H. W.

## FROM THE NILGIRI HILLS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I am sending you a photograph of a group of Todas, a small tribe of pastoral people who are found in the Nilgiri Hills. They are a remarkably handsome people, tall, well built, and with an aquiline cast of features, which with their wavy hair and full beards gives them a curious air of distinction. I do not know what the present size of the tribe is, as the last official figures I have by me are those of 1901, when it numbered 807 persons in all. The

men are considerably in excess of the women, with the result that polyandry is the custom, the woman usually being married to a number of brothers. As may be seen from the photograph, their dress consists of a single garment



TODAS. EACH DRESSED IN A SINGLE GARMENT.

worn something after the manner of a Highland plaid. Their work is entirely pastoral, being confined to cattle herding and dairy work.—ORIENT.

## THE BUTTERFLY ORCHIS IN THE COTSWOLDS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I was very interested by the article on the large butterfly orchis. Last year I found many of them in the Cotswolds. Your contributor H. Essenhig-Corke might be interested in the following details of the largest: Its height was between 2ft. 3ins. and 2ft. 4ins., and had as many as forty-eight flowers, though I regret to say that I did not measure the spike. I also picked one specimen whose flowers were of a bright yellowish green. Their scent is lovely, especially towards evening, and in the dusk the white spikes show up very plainly. In the same district I have found the frog, fly, bee, musk, marsh, pyramidal, spotted, twayblade, bird's-nest, dwarf, early purple and green-winged orchis. I also had the pleasure of finding wild lilies of the valley, Solomon's seal, bog-bean and dusky geranium.—UBIQUE.

## THE BIRTHPLACE OF RALEIGH.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—These photographs may be of interest to readers of *COUNTRY LIFE* owing to the recent celebration of the tercentenary of the death of Sir Walter Raleigh. I noticed the birthplace, Hayes Barton, in a recent issue of *COUNTRY LIFE*, and send you a photograph of the Raleigh Pew end in East Budleigh Church. This bench end is noted as one of the earliest dated in England and the only one in Devon. On it is carved a shield with arms defaced, with greyhounds as supporters; above, a helmet in profile to left, with surrounding mantle, staghounds for crest, and a square panel at base which bears the date 1537. Hayes Barton, where Sir Walter Raleigh was born, is situated in the parish of East Budleigh and about a mile from the church. Beyond the fact of its being associated with the Raleigh family, it is a very attractive and typical Devonshire village.—C. S. W.



EAST BUDLEIGH, IN WHICH PARISH SIR WALTER RALEIGH WAS BORN.



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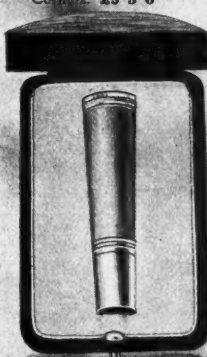


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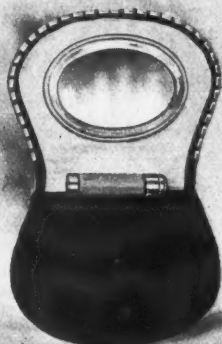
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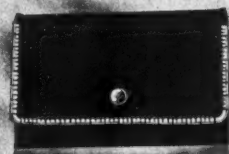
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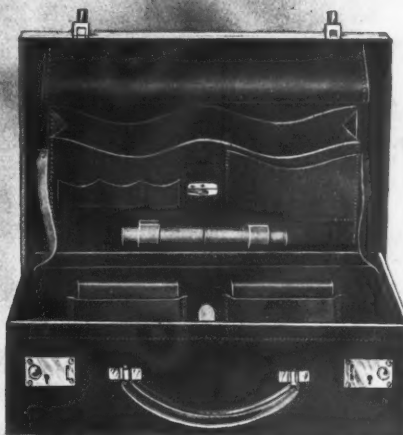
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## VACCINATION AND INOCULATION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I cannot help writing to correct an error in Mr. Bolton's article on Rutland House in *COUNTRY LIFE* of November 2nd. It is giving to Lady Mary Wortley Montague the distinction of introducing vaccination into England. She introduced inoculation from Turkey where she had been with her husband, Ambassador at the time in Constantinople, and had the courage to have her children inoculated, setting the fashion in England. I can answer for the inoculation being happily superseded by vaccination, which does no harm to the patient; whereas my grandfather, William Stuart of Alenham Abbey, her great-grandson, was terribly marked to the day of his death, having been inoculated according to the family custom. He was born in 1798 and died in 1893. I recollect him perfectly, and he was pointed out to me as a sufferer from inoculation. Vaccination, as most people know, was discovered by Dr. Jenner, and became common in the early part of the nineteenth century.—A. H. C.

## PRESERVING LOCAL TRADITIONS IN ARCHITECTURE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR.—Before it is too late may I urge your powerful paper with all despatch and vigour to lay before the proper authorities the necessity, if they wish to retain the beauty and seamliness of our English scenery, of insisting, when erecting the many new cottages required up and down England after the war, on each locality building in its own tradition? If this is done, new work will harmlessly and naturally take its place. If not, the result will be deplorable. Instance after instance can now be quoted with monotonous recurrence of towns and villages spoilt by a few—a very few will do it—buildings entirely out of character with their surroundings. An otherwise lovely old stone village in Oxfordshire visited by the writer recently is a case in point, one end of it made an eyesore by a red brick and slate roofed parish room—it must be owned, looking most sheepish and self-conscious, as if even the bricks and slates here had their sense of fitness shocked. Let those who love English scenery fight hard to prevent further desecration of the countryside. Would it not be economy also to employ local material?—F. L. E.

## CHARCOAL FOR DOMESTIC USE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I venture to ask if you would give in your valuable paper a short practical account of how to burn charcoal for use in a kitchen range? On many estates there is plenty of wood, but it cannot be applied to cooking in its normal condition. I believe that directions such as any woodman could put in practice for this purpose would be valued by some of your readers, and would tend to the national object of saving fuel.—E. R. BERNARD.

[The following method of charcoal manufacture, which has been successfully carried out on a large English estate for a century and a half, is recommended both on the score of cheapness and efficiency. A piece of ground sheltered from the prevailing winds, and in a position to which easy access with wood can be obtained, is set apart for the charcoal-making. The wood is carted in at any time when obtainable and when it is convenient to spare horse labour from other parts of the forest work, and consists of all kinds of hard woods in size, if possible, not under 2 ins. in diameter. Principally firewood and rather rough and unsalable timber are used for this purpose. The wood is sawn into pieces 2 ft. long, and these again split, if required, to about 4 ins. square, and when a sufficient quantity has been cut up for two pits, the building of these is then proceeded with. Here it may be necessary to state that it is much better to burn two pits at the same time, as both can be attended to during the charring process as conveniently as one, and do not necessitate the men sitting up at night for each separately. The pits are usually made of conical shape, 2 ft. in diameter, and about 9 ft. in height, the mode of construction being as follows: A strong stake is driven firmly into the ground and left protruding about 12 ins. Around this are placed small pieces of dry ash of a similar size and standing as close

to the upright stake as possible, around this being placed another layer in the same manner, and so on until a circle 4 ft. in diameter is obtained. A circle 1 ft. in diameter, and having the top of the stake driven into the ground as a centre, is next made by placing the wood horizontally on the upright pieces and side by side, repeating the same by laying other pieces on these in a similar manner until the pit is of the required height, the wood used here being dry pieces of ash 24 ins. long, but split rather smaller than the ordinary size. This forms a sort of chimney by means of which the pits are fired. Outside, the wood is placed on end and reclining inwards, this method being continued until the pits are of the required size. When completed the pits are covered with newly cut turf, the grassy side being placed innermost, beginning at the base and working towards the top, each line of turf overlapping the previous one by a few inches, the circular hole or chimney being left open for firing. The turves are cut about 1 ft. in width and any length convenient, the quantity required for two pits being about seven cartloads. Before turning the top half of each pit they are carefully examined, and any crevices between the pieces of wood packed full of small bits of turf and sawdust to exclude the air. They are next fired by dropping a couple of shovelfuls of burning wood and some pieces of dry pine or ash into the opening left at the top. The top turf is then put on, which effectually shuts up the chimney, after which the process of charring commences. The smoke is first seen issuing from the lower half of each pit where sawdust has not been used, and ultimately all over. Constant attention is required day and night during the period of burning, and especially so should the weather be stormy, as the wind, striking constantly on a particular part of the pit, causes that side to burn very rapidly and fall into a hole. Should this occur, the hole must at once be filled up with rough logs which have been set aside for the purpose when splitting the wood and re-covered with turf. When the weather is mild the pits burn uniformly all over, require but little attention, and produce the finest charcoal. The time required in burning varies from seven to nine days, according to the state of the weather, dry and mild requiring the longest period. As the charring proceeds the turves gradually disappear and only a slight covering of burnt earth remains, after which, and having become cool, the pits are ready for being opened, when it is found they are reduced to about half their original size. The charcoal is extracted by means of a rake resembling a light drag, but having much finer teeth, and after becoming quite cold is stored away until required for use. When well prepared, charcoal weighs about 13 lb. and 15 lb. per bushel respectively for soft and hard woods, a ton of coniferous wood yielding about 43 bushels of charcoal. The usual price for burning charcoal when the wood is corded is 35s. per ton, but the cost varies greatly with the district in which the work is being carried out. The price of charcoal also varies considerably according to quality, but is high at present owing to the demands of the War Office.—Ed.]

## A CANADIAN VISITOR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—For three years and more a beautiful Canadian grey squirrel has made himself at home in our old garden, coming from a neighbouring garden with a dell in it, where evidently he had his home. During the nutting season he haunts some old beeches near and seems to be on friendly terms with the inhabitants of a rookery there. Now that the ancient walnut tree in our garden is shedding its nuts day and night, he spends his time in collecting and burying them all over the lawn, and so cleverly that it is almost impossible to find them. It is most interesting to watch him rushing about with his beautiful bushy tail arched, and a walnut in his mouth, seeking for a spot to bury it in. How he leaps and pounces on the right spot, then scratches with lightning rapidity, using all four little paws, and, after dropping his walnut into the hole, rams it in with his nose and camouflages the place with leaves or grass! He has never brought a mate, so we conclude he is a bachelor, and he is not very shy when human beings approach, but if they whistle or call to him, he whisks up a tree and bounds out of sight. He is too charming and beautiful to frighten away, and as to the walnuts he purloins—well, "live and let live" is a sound old motto.—K. C.

## TURF, STUD AND STABLE

THE New Year, which is going to restore so much to humanity, will certainly bring with its advent a general resumption of racing, under the auspices of the National Hunt Committee, and, later, under the Jockey Club. Compared with what the dawn of the new era of Peace means to our civilisation, racing may seem, as it no doubt is, a small thing. Nevertheless, it unquestionably signifies much to many, and is symbolic of the resurrection of those activities and that return to the normal which only the cessation of bloody warfare, with its appalling waste, and the coming of Peace could make possible. The authorities will be well advised if they do everything they can to encourage rather than discourage the resumption. They should begin by transferring the whole management back to the Jockey Club; they must no longer make themselves responsible for control of any kind which has for its object the limitation of fixtures or dictation as to localities of the meetings. Control can no longer be justified. At one time—in 1915—racing was wholly suspended because it was alleged that our Allies would misinterpret the meaning of horse-racing in such critical times. Sentimentalists and moralists succeeded in moving the Government to apply the ban. Then later it was suggested that race meetings were inimical to the proper prosecution of the war. They deflected from what should be absolute concentration on the winning of the war. So

again there was total stoppage until the third time the Government had to yield to pressure on horse-breeding grounds and concede the season of flat-racing which was restricted to Newmarket.

All that is past and done with. Control vanished, I hope, with the signing of the Armistice, and now those responsible for the Government, if they are wise and do not read the signs wrongly, will restore to the Jockey Club and the National Hunt Committee the custody of horse-racing, and trust to their common-sense not to re-start the whole machinery at once, but by gradual and well-considered degrees. If those who dislike racing at any time have doubt as to the soundness of my suggestion, let them consider the events in every city and town in the kingdom since the announcement of the Huns' surrender. Why have the rejoicings continued day after day that are still going on as I write this? Why have the people greedily seized on the chance to explode their long pent-up feelings by jubilant demonstrations to the point of boisterous "ragging"? It is because they have for so long been denied the opportunities of recreation and relaxation such as would have kept the mind steady and balanced in the ordinary way. The result of such denial has been too much for some people. They simply could not cope with the surging reaction and rush of emotions of actual relief from strain and anxiety. Let our legislators take heed of the symptoms and





## NO PEACE YET FOR THE HORSES

They have a hard and difficult winter to face. A tremendous amount of heavy work has now to be done in clearing the battlefields, and the horses are called on to haul back heavy guns, ammunition, stores, and the countless paraphernalia of war, over sodden shell-torn ground, often impassible to motor traffic.

To gauge the value of the work they have done during the war is an almost impossible task—only the soldiers themselves can fully appreciate it.

*Capt. A., R.F.A., writes:—*

*"All our horses have been through a lot of fighting and strenuous times, but thanks to the many good offices of the R.S.P.C.A. Fund they are to-day in the very pink of condition."*

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*(The only fund authorised by the Army Council to work with the Army Veterinary Corps)*

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*The cost of this advertisement is generously borne by a group of well-known sportsmen and horse lovers who realise the urgency of this appeal.*

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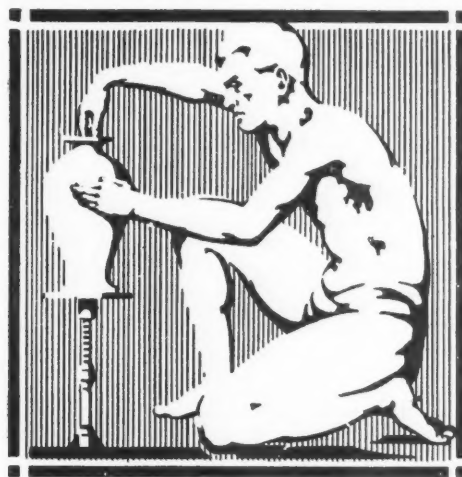
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let them do nothing to obstruct the coming into action again of our national sports and pastimes.

I used to think in 1913 that the crowds at the principal meetings were steadily getting bigger. I thought so again in 1914 up to that fateful August. And now there is the immediate future to be contemplated with the wonderful safety valve which racing really and truly represents. I am writing some days ahead of the actual publication of *COUNTRY LIFE*, but by the time these notes are in the hands of readers I fully expect the week's Racing Calendar will have announced provisional programmes for steeple-chasing from the New Year and for flat-racing from the end of next March and onwards. There should be fixtures wherever racecourses are vacant, providing that demands on the railways are not likely to be excessive for they will assuredly be hard pressed during demobilisation. The actual signal to commence demobilisation may not be given for quite a long time, and when it is forthcoming the process will certainly be a protracted one. So it should be perfectly obvious that the whole machinery of racing will only be put into motion gradually. For instance, I much doubt whether it will be possible to celebrate the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree in 1919. The war's requirements, I understand, have made heavy encroachments there. But nothing surely should stand in the way of the first *post-letum* Derby being held at Epsom. And from Epsom we would in due time go on to Ascot, from the stands of which the flag of the Red Cross would no longer fly, and there witness a spectacle which will certainly yield a degree of brilliance which even Ascot has never before touched. Then there would be Goodwood, with its quieter, but none the less enjoyable, tones and its incomparable setting of downs and woodlands. In the intervals the great industrial centres would be served as at Manchester, on Tyneside and Teeside, and those who are fearful to-day of labour unrest would learn something of the value of racing as a sedative to the minds and moods of the workers.

The proposition to bring into existence a horse-breeding

branch of the Board of Agriculture has behind it a powerful support which is growing, and the outcome may be definite action on the part of the Government before very long. I hope Mr. Prothero, the President of the Board, will understand that the period of demobilisation makes the creation of the branch a matter of extreme urgency. If he be convinced that a grant from the State is essential in order to secure a supply of horses suitable for military purposes, the President can have no option but to go to the Cabinet on the question. It seems to me fairly logical to assume that his policy must be shaped by the military advice he must seek, and should it be uncompromisingly strong on the question, as I assume it would be, Mr. Prothero would have to present the case to his colleagues in the Government in order that he might not be saddled hereafter with the responsibility of any serious consequences. But it is not only on military grounds that a horse breeding department may be brought into existence. I hope the military point of view will be absolutely subsidiary in the time to come when wars will have been made impossible. I want the Department to introduce sympathetic and practical support of the whole of our national horse-breeding operations to weld together the whole of the interests into a coherent and progressive whole so that our splendid breeds of horses and ponies may be improved on principles of true common-sense and utility.

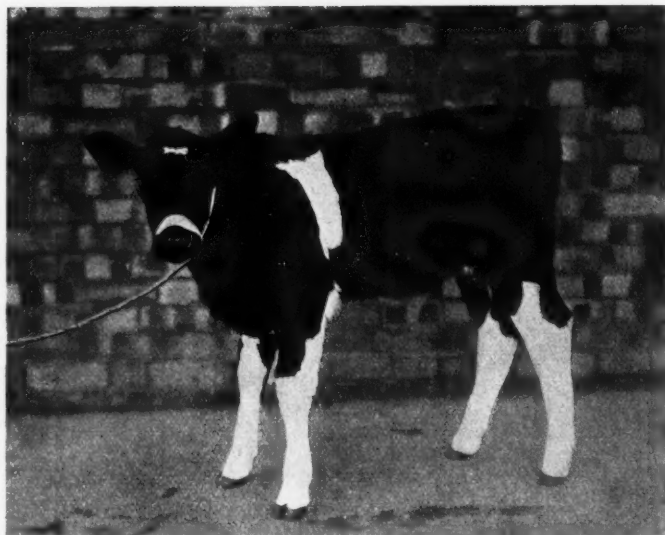
I understand that the well known trainer, Charles Morton, has returned to Wantage with a view to resuming training for Mr. J. B. Joel. He is extremely able, and within recent years has won four Oaks, a Two Thousand Guineas, a Derby and a St. Leger for Mr. Joel, while his successes in other important races have been most marked. Four yearlings are going to him at once from Childwickbury. The famous Foxhill establishment in Wiltshire, the headquarters of the late W. T. Robinson, has, I hear, been acquired by Mr. J. White, for whom Cottrill trains. Irish Elegance is quite the best of the horses to go there.

PHILLIPPOS.

## RECORD PRICES FOR PEDIGREE STOCK

THERE is no end to the high prices paid for pedigree stock. At the Twyford Hereford sale the stock bull Ringer changed hands for the sum of nine thousand guineas. It was the highest price ever paid in England for a bull, and a fine testimonial to the sterling qualities of the famous Hereford breed. The demand for Hereford cattle is steadily increasing; as economical producers of beef they are well known throughout the world, and as more and more beef is needed so the demand for the famous white-faced Herefords, on account of their easy feeding and early maturing propensities, must become even greater.

The photograph we reproduce here shows Ringer to be the possessor of those fine points which his pedigree leads one to expect. Ringer, who is a four year old, was sold by Mr. Hayter, and with eighty-three other animals belonging to the same owner and offered at the same sale brought in the sum of 42,602 guineas, an average of £532 10s. 6d. per head. Four cows made respectively 2,000 guineas, 1,700 guineas, 1,200 guineas and 1,150 guineas; two others 1,000 guineas each, and a yearling bull 1,200 guineas.



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HAYDON'S DUTCH KING.

"C.L."



G. H. Parsons.

HEREFORD, BULL RINGER.

Sold for 9,000 guineas.

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Perhaps the price of two thousand five hundred guineas paid for a twelve months old bull calf is even more remarkable, being the record price ever paid at that age. This was recently given by Mrs. Brown of Hedge Farm, St. Albans, for Haydon's Dutch King from Mrs. Putnam's noted British Friesian herd. This bull calf has remarkable milk records in his ancestry. Mrs. Putnam's Osmaston Imported Frits is his sire, and his dam gave an average of 1169 gallons in five consecutive lactation periods in successive years. The dam of Haydon's Dutch King, Rochford Imported Jonkeye, herself averaged 1249 gallons in four lactation periods in successive years, something outstanding in the way of milk records which should justify the high value now set upon the Friesian breed.